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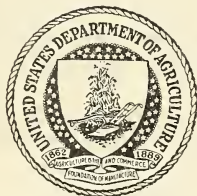
# A GRAPHIC SUMMARY OF THE NUMBER, SIZE, AND TYPE OF FARM, AND VALUE OF PRODUCTS

(Based Largely on the Census of 1930 and 1935)

By

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This publication is one of a projected series of 10 publications as follows:

A Graphic Summary of Physical Features and Land Utilization in the United States.....	O. E. Baker
A Graphic Summary of Farm Tenure.....	H. A. Turner
A Graphic Summary of Farm Taxation.....	Donald Jackson
A Graphic Summary of the Value of Farm Property.....	B. R. Stauber and M. M. Regan
A Graphic Summary of Farm Machinery, Facilities, Roads, and Expenditures.....	O. E. Baker
A Graphic Summary of Farm Labor and Population.....	J. C. Folsom and O. E. Baker
A Graphic Summary of the Number, Size, and Type of Farm, and Value of Products.....	O. E. Baker
A Graphic Summary of Farm Crops.....	O. E. Baker and A. B. Genung
A Graphic Summary of Farm Animals and Animal Products.....	O. E. Baker
A Graphic Summary of Farm Mortgage Debt.....	D. L. Wickens and N. J. Wall

This series, which has been prepared under the general direction of O. E. Baker, senior agricultural economist, will bring up to date the Graphic Summary of American Agriculture published in 1931 as Miscellaneous Publication 105.

The first Graphic Summary of American Agriculture appeared in the 1915 Yearbook of Agriculture (also issued as Yearbook Separate 681), and was largely based on the 1910 census. The second was contained in the 1921 Yearbook (also issued as Yearbook Separate 878), and was based largely on the 1920 census. The third was published as Miscellaneous Publication No. 105, in May 1931, and was based both on the 1925 Agricultural Census, and the annual estimates of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. It was divided into 11 sections, but these sections were bound together and issued only as a single publication. It was more inclusive than previous issues, particularly of maps and graphs relating to the economic and social aspects of agriculture.

The publications in this series devote still more attention to economic and social conditions. They are based on both the 1930 and 1935 census reports, as well as the annual estimates of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. They deal not only with changes between 1930 and 1935 but also, with the changes during the decade of urban prosperity and agricultural depression that preceded the more general depression. Most of the distribution maps for crops and many of those for livestock present the 1929 census returns, because the drought of unprecedented severity and extent in 1934 would make such maps for 1934 misleading. Several increase and decrease maps, however, show the changes that occurred between 1929 and 1934, or 1930 and 1935.

The graphic presentation was designed and drafted under the direction of R. G. Hainsworth, in charge of the graphic section of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Most of the clerical work was done under the supervision of N. P. Bradshaw, who also prepared the indexes.



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## A GRAPHIC SUMMARY OF THE NUMBER, SIZE, AND TYPE OF FARM, AND VALUE OF PRODUCTS

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By O. E. BAKER, *senior agricultural economist,*  
*Bureau of Agricultural Economics*

### NUMBER OF FARMS

The economic depression of 1930-34 reversed the trend in number of farms during the preceding 20 years in much of the United States, but whether the reversal is transitory or permanent is not yet clear.

Prior to the depression, progress in agricultural technique, particularly in use of power machinery, induced an expansion in grain production in the Great Plains, and the substitution of gasoline for horse and mule feed as a source of power on farms released about 30,000,000 acres of crop land, mostly in the North and West, which was used principally for the production of meat and milk. The trend also was from the less productive toward the more productive crops per acre, notably from corn toward cotton (a more productive crop per acre) in the South, from wheat toward corn along the north-western margin of the Corn Belt, and from grain and hay toward fruits and vegetables in California and elsewhere.

The kinds of livestock that are most efficient in transforming feed into human food—dairy cows, hogs, and poultry—increased in number; while the less-efficient—beef cattle and sheep—remained about stationary in numbers or declined, after allowance is made for stage in the production cycle. Improvements in feeding practices and reduction of losses by disease and death through better sanitation also increased production of animal products per unit of feed consumed.

Largely because of these factors agricultural production increased about 18 percent between the period 1915-20 and 1925-30, which was more rapid than the increase in population. Moreover, exports declined notably during the pre-depression decade. This increase in production occurred despite a practically stationary farm and crop acreage in the Nation as a whole and, apparently, a slight decline in the number of farms.

The prosperity of the cities and the high wages available were factors probably as important in reducing the number of farms in the East prior to the depression, as were the competition of the larger farms of the West and the low prices for farm products resulting from the increase in production in most parts of the Nation. In the Northeast the decline in number of farms had been in progress for many years, and had involved both abandonment of farms in districts of poor soils

or remote location, and consolidation of two farms into one. In the Corn Belt the decrease was the result mostly of consolidation of farms. At the same time the number of farms continued to increase in the cut-over area in the upper Great Lakes region where the lumber companies were selling land, and in many drier portions of the Great Plains, where homesteading was still in progress. Increases occurred also in the irrigated districts of the far West.

In the South, where the rural birth rate is higher, and where cotton is still picked by hand, the number of farms, including cropper and tenant holdings, increased from 1910 to 1920 in most areas except those into which the boll weevil was spreading. This increase continued during 1920-30 in most of the Cotton Belt, except Georgia and South Carolina, where boll weevil infestation had now become severe, and erosion was greatly depleting soil fertility. A decrease occurred also in Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, western Arkansas, and southeastern Oklahoma, probably attributable in large part to migration to the cities.

With the coming of the depression millions of people, mostly unemployed, returned to the land, seeking shelter and sustenance with relatives or friends, or occupying abandoned farms and summer homes, or buying a little land and building a shack to live in. About 2,000,000 of these back-to-the-land people were still living on farms when the census was taken January 1, 1935. Inability to obtain urban employment likewise backed-up on farms about 2,000,000 more people, mostly youth, who under pre-depression conditions would have migrated to the cities.

A net increase of about 500,000 farms occurred, according to the census. This increase took place mostly in areas of poor soil or hilly surface and near the large cities, particularly the manufacturing cities of the Northeast. On the other hand, in several highly commercialized areas in the Cotton Belt a decrease in farms occurred, and in the rich Corn Belt the increase was small.

The trend toward fewer farms was reversed during the depression. The proportion of the population engaged in agriculture started upward, production per worker started downward, and the level of living declined. But millions of people found a refuge. The income from agriculture had to be supplemented in many cases by work off the farm or by means of the relief funds. About 2,000,000 farm operators reported for 1934 "work for pay or income at jobs, business, or professions not connected with the farm."

With the improvement of urban conditions migration of farm youth to the cities is increasing again. In 1934 and 1935 the net movement apparently exceeded half the predepression magnitude and in 1936 was doubtless larger than in 1935. It appears probable that the number of farms is again approaching, perhaps has arrived at, a stationary condition—but at a new and higher level.

#### SIZE OF FARMS

Although in American agriculture wealth is more evenly distributed than in the cities, there is still a wide range among farmers in area of land farmed and in wealth. In 1930 nearly 60 percent of the farms were under 100 acres in size (table 1), but these included less than 16 percent of the land in farms, less than 24 percent of the cropland harvested, and less than 29 percent of the value of land and buildings.



On the other hand, farms exceeding 174 acres in size constituted less than 20 percent of all farms, but included 66 percent of all farm land, over 53 percent of the cropland harvested, and over 47 percent of the value of land and buildings. Moreover, as nearly half the farms under 100 acres in area were operated by tenants, as compared with only a little over a third of the farms exceeding 174 acres in area, it appears that ownership of farm property is even more concentrated than operation.

Between 1930 and 1935—during the depression—the number of farms of 3 to 9 acres increased nearly 70 percent, and farms of 10 to 19 acres increased 22 percent, but number of farms 20 to 49 acres remained stationary. Those in all larger size groups up to 1,000 acres increased about 5 percent, and those larger than 1,000 acres about 10 percent. Apparently, the differences in area farmed, and probably in the wealth of farmers, was not diminished during the depression.

TABLE 1.—*Changes in the relative importance of the several size groups of farms in use of the land in stated years*

[Percentage distribution by size groups]

Size group	Number of farms			All land in farms			Cropland harvested			Plowable pasture		Land available for crops, 1934 <sup>2</sup>	Land used for crops, 1934 <sup>3</sup>
	1935	1930	1925	1935	1930	1925	1934 <sup>1</sup>	1929	1924	1934	1929		
Under 3 acres.....	0.5	0.7	0.2	( <sup>4</sup> )	( <sup>4</sup> )	( <sup>4</sup> )	( <sup>4</sup> )	( <sup>4</sup> )	( <sup>4</sup> )	( <sup>4</sup> )	( <sup>4</sup> )	( <sup>4</sup> )	( <sup>4</sup> )
3 to 9 acres.....	7.9	5.0	5.7	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.5
10 to 19 acres.....	10.0	8.9	9.2	.9	.8	.9	2.1	1.5	1.7	.7	.5	1.5	1.8
20 to 49 acres.....	21.1	22.9	22.8	4.4	4.7	5.0	8.5	7.8	8.5	4.2	3.5	6.4	7.3
50 to 99 acres.....	21.2	21.9	22.3	9.9	10.0	11.0	15.1	13.1	14.6	11.8	10.2	12.6	13.2
100 to 174 acres.....	20.6	21.4	21.7	17.9	18.3	20.1	25.8	23.7	25.7	21.6	19.5	22.7	23.8
175 to 259 acres.....	7.9	8.3	7.9	10.8	11.2	11.5	15.1	14.3	14.5	13.2	12.1	13.6	14.2
260 to 499 acres.....	6.9	7.2	6.9	15.6	15.9	16.4	17.9	20.1	19.7	17.3	17.5	19.6	20.0
500 to 999 acres.....	2.5	2.5	2.3	10.8	11.0	10.5	8.2	11.1	9.4	11.1	12.9	11.6	10.8
1,000 acres and over.....	1.3	1.3	1.0	29.4	28.0	24.3	6.7	8.0	5.5	19.7	23.7	11.5	8.4
1,000 to 4,999 acres.....	1.1	1.1	.9	13.4	12.9	10.7	5.6	6.9	4.6	12.6	14.6	9.2	7.2
5,000 to 9,999 acres.....	.1	.1		4.0	3.6		.5	.6		2.7	3.0	1.0	.6
10,000 acres and over.....	.1	.1	.1	11.9	11.5	13.6	.5	.5	.9	4.4	6.1	1.3	.5
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

<sup>1</sup> Extraordinary drought reduced acreage harvested in 1934 in regions characterized by large farms.

<sup>2</sup> Cropland harvested, crop failure, idle or fallow cropland, and plowable pasture.

<sup>3</sup> Cropland harvested and crop failure.

<sup>4</sup> Less than 0.1 percent.

### TYPE OF FARM

The schedule of the agricultural census taken April 1, 1930, contained for the first time the following inquiries:

Value of grains, cotton, tobacco, hay, vegetables, fruits, plants, flowers, and all other crops grown in 1929, which were or are to be sold or traded.....	\$-----
	(Omit cents)
Value of livestock and poultry sold or traded in 1929.....	\$-----
	(Omit cents)
Value of milk, cream, butter, butterfat, meat, eggs, honey, wool, mohair, and other livestock products sold or traded in 1929.....	\$-----
	(Omit cents)
Value of forest products sold in 1929 (include value of items 212-217, and also bark, turpentine, gum, etc.).....	\$-----
	(Omit cents)
Value (estimated) of products of this farm in 1929 that were used by your family (meat, milk, eggs, honey, vegetables, fruits, firewood, etc.).....	\$-----
	(Omit cents)
Gross receipts from lodgers, boarders, and campers (omit board or lodging furnished to persons working for you).....	\$-----
	(Omit cents)

In general, when the value of a commodity sold from a farm—that is, grain, cotton and seed, fruit, vegetables, or some other crop, such as tobacco, sugar beets, or potatoes, dairy products, poultry products, or livestock—exceeded 40 percent of the value of all products, it was classified as a cash-grain, cotton, fruit, truck, dairy, crop-specialty, poultry, or animal-specialty farm, respectively. An animal-specialty farm became a stock ranch in the eastern half of the United States if the acreage in pasture was 5 times that in crops, and in the western half if 10 times that in crops. When no one product sold constituted 40 percent of the value of all products of the farm, it became a “general” farm, except as noted below. When the value of the products consumed by the farm family exceeded the value of the products sold, the farm was classified as a “self-sufficing” farm. When the farm operator worked off the farm for pay more than 150 days during 1929, and the value of farm products was less than \$750, the farm was classified as a “part-time” farm. In case it qualified as both self-sufficing and part-time, it was classified as a part-time farm.

In the tabulation of the census returns part-time farms were included in the group “abnormal farms”, which included also livestock dealers, horse farms and feed lots, country estates, boarding and lodging farms, and forest-products farms. These last three classes are defined in the captions beneath figures 69, 70, and 71, respectively. As a consequence only a limited amount of data is available for part-time farms, as distinguished from the other types.

Table 2 provides certain statistics for the United States as a whole concerning these types of farms.

TABLE 2.—Types of farms in the United States, number, acreage, and value of products, 1929

Type	Farms	Acreage				Value of products	
		Total in farms	Crops harvested	Pasture		Total	Per farm
				Plowable	Other <sup>1</sup>		
	Thou- sands	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 dollars	Dollars
Cotton.....	1,640	118,505	62,731	6,615	8,720	1,698,107	1,035
General.....	1,044	144,181	60,934	19,031	19,164	1,544,996	1,480
Dairy.....	605	83,784	34,179	10,772	13,671	1,672,132	2,765
Self-sufficing.....	498	34,631	7,699	4,500	3,642	211,720	425
Animal-specialty.....	479	110,034	53,780	18,642	18,082	1,740,974	3,634
Cash-grain.....	455	159,837	92,015	17,433	24,529	1,338,335	2,943
Crop-specialty.....	431	47,205	18,580	4,977	6,374	834,365	1,934
Abnormal.....	384	27,577	5,466	3,414	4,834	412,191	1,073
Part-time.....	339	15,925	3,394				
Other.....	45	11,652	2,072				
Poultry.....	167	10,383	3,530	1,567	1,335	331,167	1,989
Fruit.....	141	10,035	4,612	692	844	474,315	3,354
Truck.....	85	5,094	2,434	380	383	243,605	2,881
Stock-ranch.....	71	206,774	8,631	17,082	161,273	509,423	7,175
Total reporting <sup>2</sup> .....	6,000	958,040	354,591	105,105	262,851	11,011,330	1,835

<sup>1</sup> Excluding woodland pasture.

<sup>2</sup> Does not include 288,766 unclassified farms.

### VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS

It may be said of American agriculture that one-half the farmers do not know how the other half lives. Approximately half the farmers in 1929, a good year, produced less than \$1,000 worth of products,



including those consumed by the farm family. This less productive half of the farms produced only about 11 percent of the products "sold or traded" to use the census phrase (fig. 95). Probably the more productive half of the farms in a few years could be brought to the point of producing this remaining 11 percent if prices of farm products afforded encouragement. Half the farms of the Nation are not needed to feed and clothe the nonfarm people. But these less productive farms, measured in food and fibers, are contributing an increasing proportion of the citizens of the future, for the birth rate of the people on these farms is high.

Two-thirds of these less productive farms are in the South, where they constitute about two-thirds of all farms. Many more are located in Missouri, southern Illinois and Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, the cut-over lands of northern Wisconsin and Minnesota, in the Northeastern States, in New Mexico and Arizona (fig. 96). The population is dense and the pressure on the soil resources is heavy in many of these areas. A resumption of the migration of youth from these regions is now in progress. Undoubtedly the cities will absorb many of these migrants, but owing to progress in use of machinery—wage earners in manufacturing have been decreasing since 1925—it is doubtful whether the cities will absorb as many in the future as in the past. An increasing number will probably find employment in northern and western agriculture, first as wage hands and later as tenants. A few eventually will become owners.

Over one-fourth of the farms of the Nation in 1929 produced an average of less than \$600 worth of products. The typical peasant farm of northern Europe produces more than this—it produces probably nearer \$1,000 worth of products. Fifteen percent of the farms—nearly 1,000,000—produced less than \$400 worth of products. This is approaching the Chinese level of production. Less than 200,000 of these were part-time farms. More than 3,000,000 rural people in that fairly prosperous year, living on the three-fourths of a million farms that produced less than \$400 worth of products each, evidently had an income averaging about \$100 per person (figs. 98 and 99).

On the other hand, 19 percent of the farms produced over \$2,500 worth of products (fig. 95). This one-fifth of the farms produced over three-fifths of the "products sold or traded." These farms are located mostly in the Dairy Belt, the Corn Belt, the wheat regions, and the valleys of the far West, with a few in Texas and Oklahoma (figs. 104 and 105).

Natural conditions and economic and social factors have led to the development of two agricultural countries in the United States—a country characterized in general by poverty and a country characterized in general by comfort (figs. 85, 96, and 97). As tenancy and mortgage debt have increased, there has been a tendency to extend the borders of the country characterized by poverty.

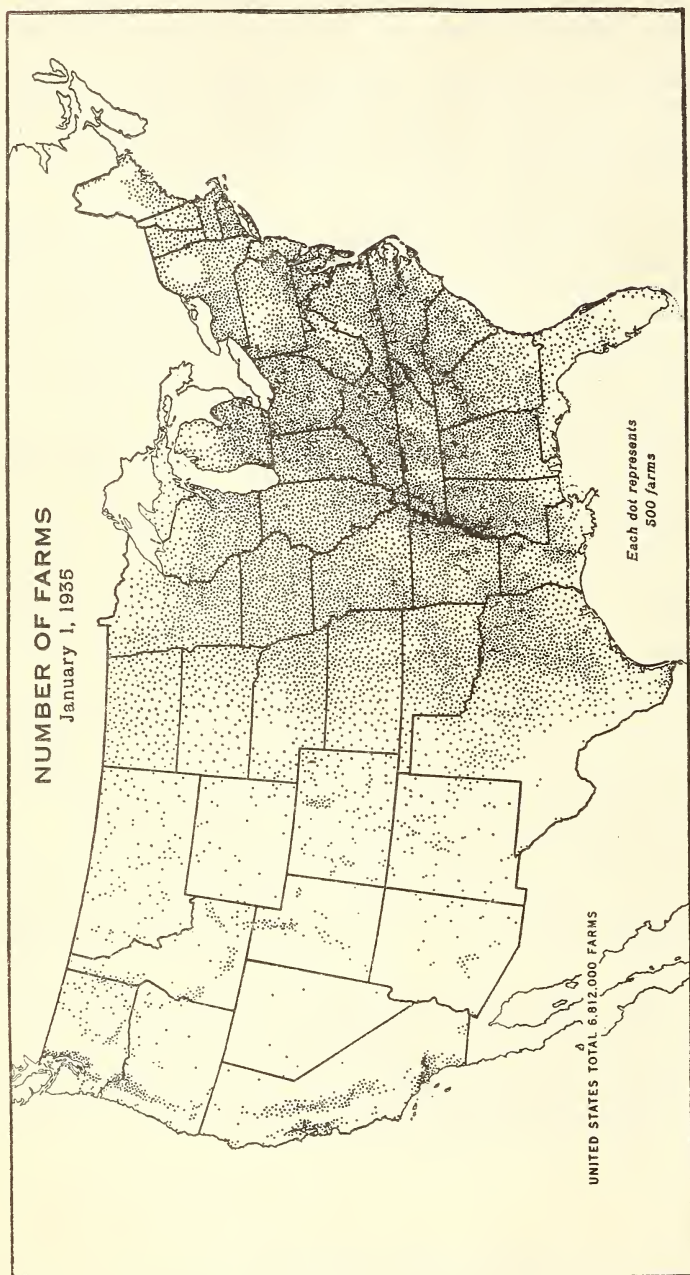
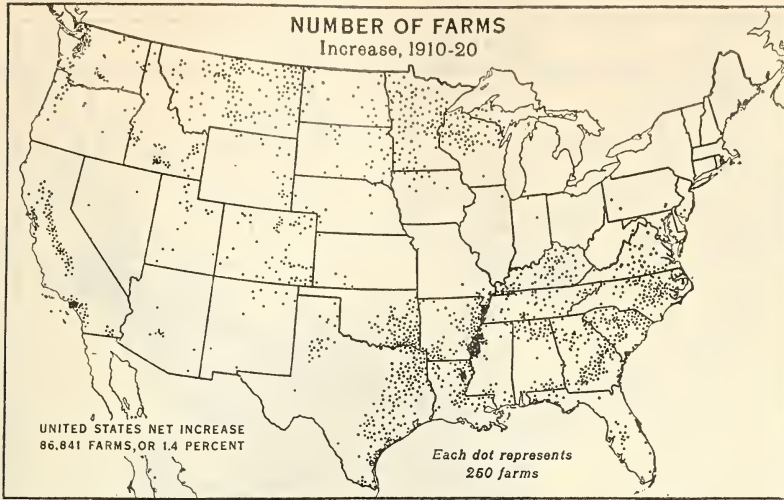


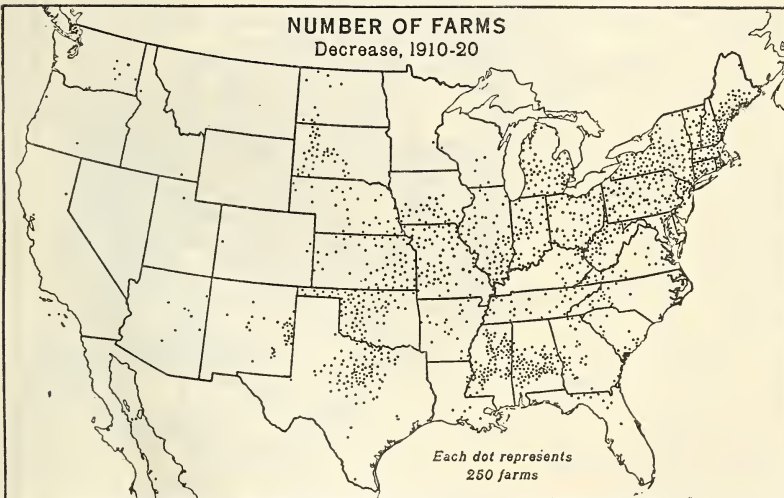
FIGURE 1.—The influence of type of farming on size of farms, and the large proportion of the land that is in farms, causes farms to be relatively numerous in the dairy, fruit, and truck districts near Philadelphia, Los Angeles, and Portland, Oreg., in the general farming areas of Ohio, Indiana, and southern Michigan, in the tobacco districts of North Carolina, Virginia, and Kentucky, and in much of the Cotton Belt, notably the upper Piedmont of the Carolinas and Georgia, and the bottom lands of the Mississippi River. Half the farms of the Nation are in the South. The Corn Belt, although it includes almost one-third of the value of farm property of the Nation, has only one-fifth of the farms.





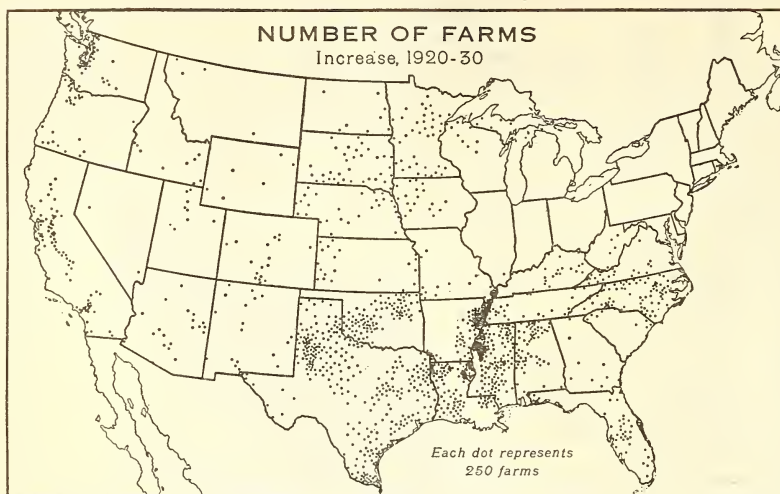
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FIGURE 2.—The increase in number of farms between 1910 and 1920, which included the World War years, was almost confined (1) to the South, where the birth rate was high and cotton production was increasing, notably in newly drained areas in the upper Mississippi Delta, (2) to the cut-over lands of the upper Great Lakes region, (3) to the Great Plains, where homesteading was still going on and power machinery plus high prices for grain was inducing expansion of wheat production onto semi-arid lands, and (4) to the irrigated valleys of the far Western States.



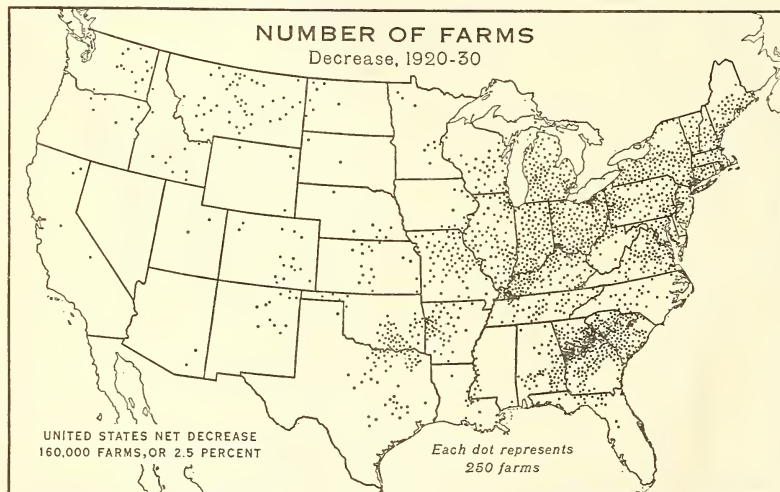
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FIGURE 3.—The area of decrease in farms between 1910 and 1920 extended in a broad band across the northeastern Dairy Belt and the Corn Belt from Maine to Nebraska and Kansas, thence southward to central Texas. The cities and the World War were drawing the youth from the farms, and some consolidation of farms in the Corn Belt and wheat regions, and abandonment of farms in the Northeast, were occurring. Locally in the Great Plains drought induced consolidation or abandonment of farms, and the boll weevil was having similar effects in the central Cotton Belt.



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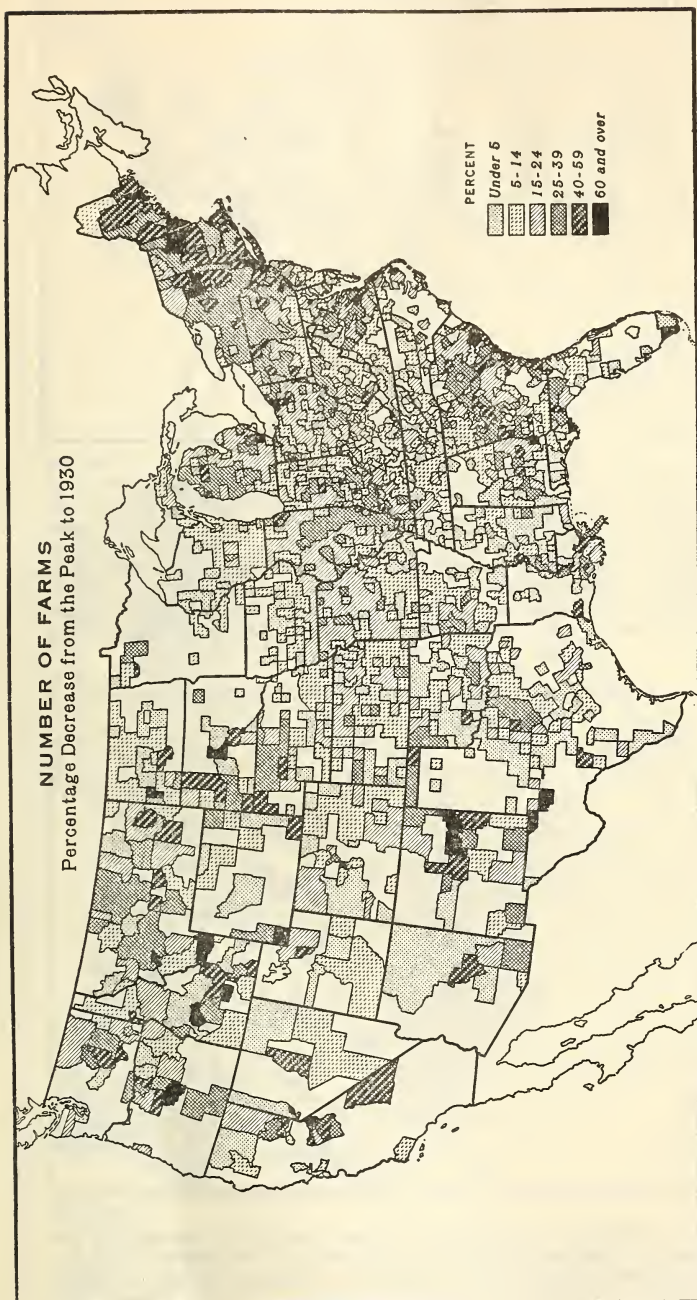
FIGURE 4.—The increase in farms during the twenties took place principally in four areas: (1) In the Mississippi Delta, as land was drained; (2) along the northern margin of the Cotton Belt, where many general farms and, in the West, wheat farms were being subdivided into cotton farms, because of good cotton prices and partial freedom from the boll weevil; (3) in the central Cotton Belt, accompanying better control of the boll weevil; and (4) in scattered counties of the northwest and far West owing to new settlements and shifts toward intensive types of farming.



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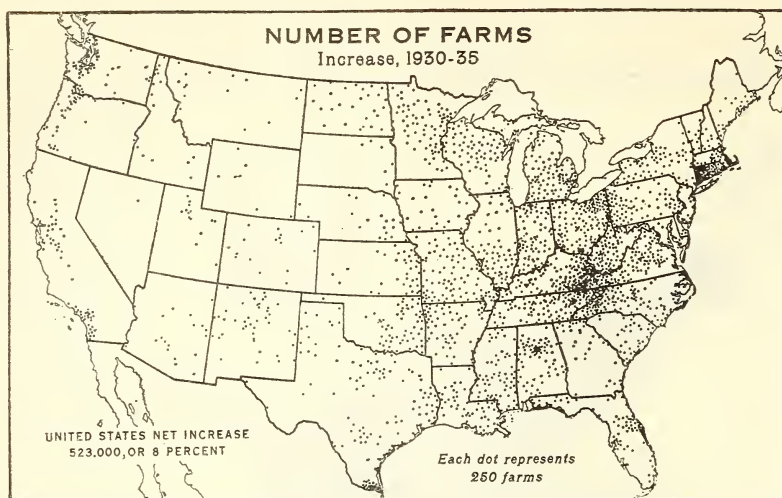
FIGURE 5.—The decrease in number of farms between 1920 and 1930 was 35,000 in South Carolina and 55,000 in Georgia and much land went out of use. A less-concentrated decrease may be noted in the eastern Corn Belt, where the trend was still toward consolidation of farms, and in the Hay and Dairy Belt to the north and east. Consolidation of two or more farms into one also occurred in this region and some farm abandonment. The decrease in number of farms exceeded the increase in the Nation as a whole by 160,000 farms.





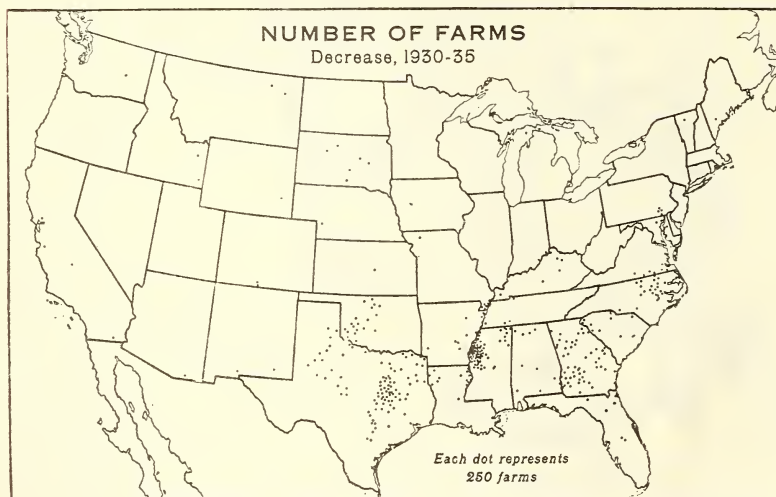
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FIGURE 6.—The abandonment of farms started locally in the Northeast soon after the Civil War, as the cities grew and attracted farm youth, and agricultural settlement on the richer lands of the central West depressed prices of farm products. After 1880 the number of farms declined in New England and New York, but not until after 1900 in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri. In Maryland, West Virginia, Michigan, Nebraska, and Kansas, 1910 was the peak census year. In Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Montana, and Idaho 1920 was the peak year. Since 1930 the downward trend has been reversed.



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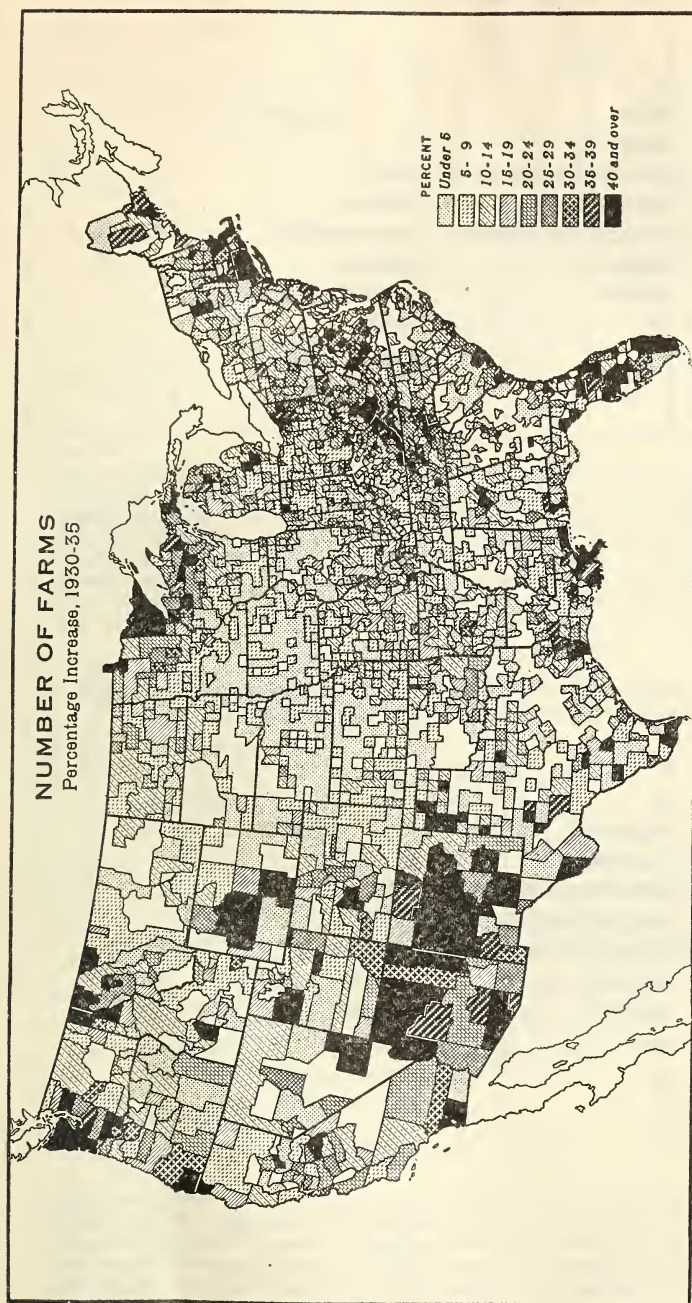
FIGURE 7.—The economic depression reversed many agricultural trends of previous years. Instead of a decline in number of farms, which had characterized most States since 1920 and some Northeastern States since 1880, there was a notable and wide-spread increase. This increase occurred largely in regions of poor soils or hilly surface, where the birth rate generally is high, and near the large cities, particularly those where the surrounding land is cheap. The location of this increase in farms suggests that most of these new farms are small part-time or self-sufficing farms.



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FIGURE 8.—The decrease in number of farms during the depression occurred mostly in the cropper farming counties of the South. The increase in farms was slight in the Corn Belt, where agriculture is highly commercialized. In the Corn Belt the birth rate is lower than in the regions to the north or south; hence the backing up of youth on the farms was less rapid; while those who went to the cities were better educated, had more capital, and did not return to the farms in so great numbers as in the poorer regions.





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FIGURE 9.—The percentage increase in number of farms during the depression was greatest in areas of relatively poor and cheap land. There the unemployed in the cities and the youths who were backed up on farms could get land, and sometimes a house, on small payments. This increase occurred in the hilly lands of the southern Appalachians, in the cut-over lands of the upper Great Lakes region, in northwestern Montana and western Washington where “wood and water” were available, and in New Mexico and Arizona where many Indian and Mexican laborers returned to their ancestral farms or tribal villages. Apparently in southern New England a considerable number of rural properties enumerated as “farms” in 1935 were not thus regarded in 1930, so the increase was smaller than indicated on the map.

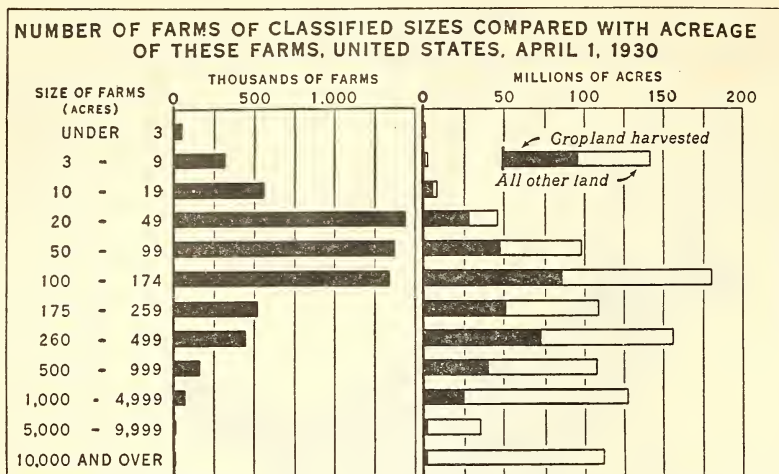


FIGURE 10.—Over half the farms of the United States were under 100 acres in size in 1930, but this 59 percent of the farms included only about 16 percent of the acreage in farms. Farms of over 500 acres constitute only about 4 percent of all farms, but they include 40 percent of the acreage in farms. However, many of these large farms measured in acreage are in the arid and semiarid sections of the West, and consist largely of grazing land of low carrying capacity.

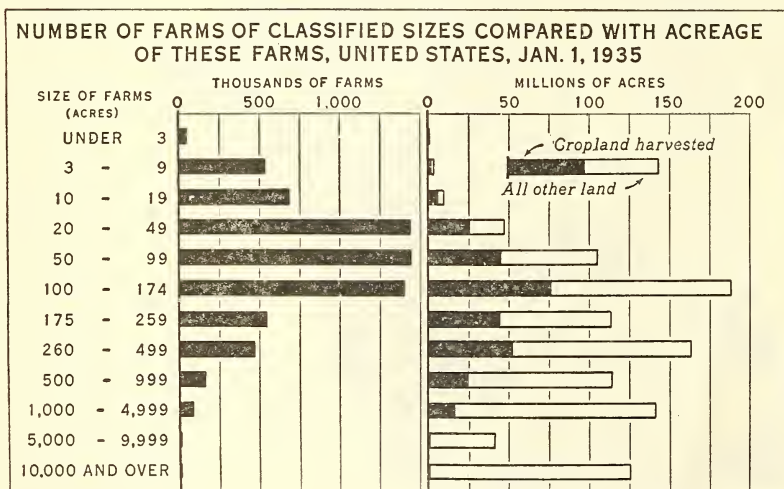
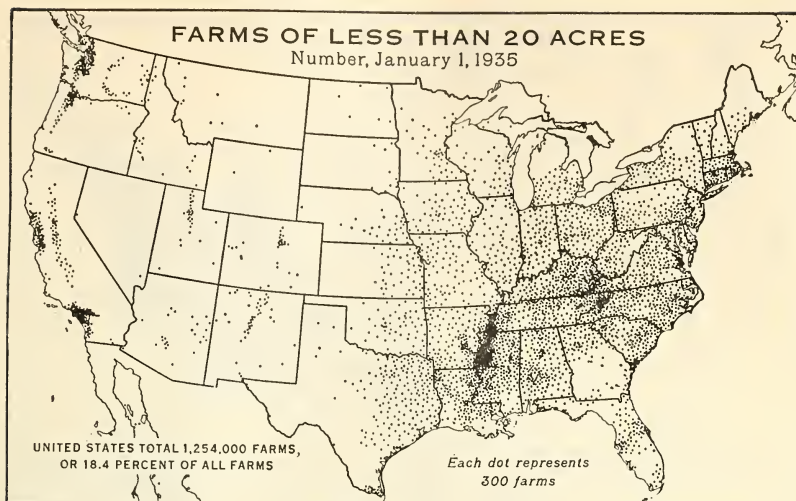


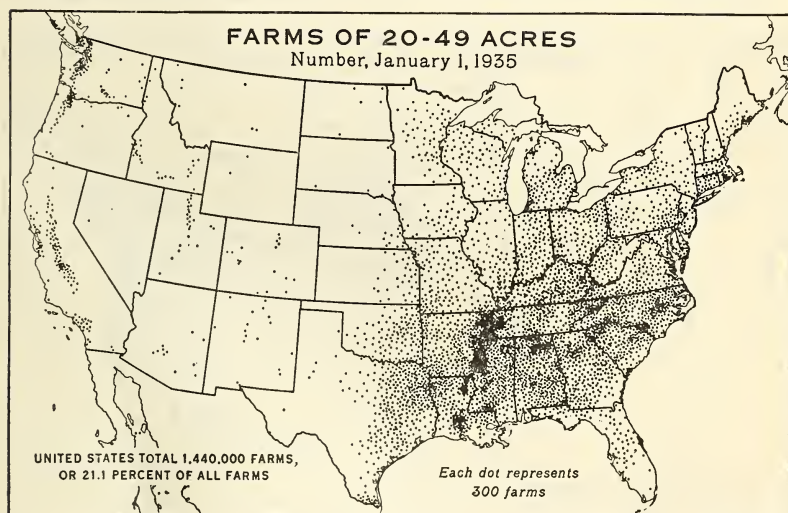
FIGURE 11.—The number of farms of 3 to 9 acres and the acreage in such farms increased 70 and 63 percent, respectively, between 1930 and 1935. Farms of 10 to 19 acres and their acreage increased about 20 percent. The number and acreage of farms of 20 to 49 acres remained almost unchanged. The number and acreage of farms in the larger size groups increased more or less. During these depression years the number of farms in the United States increased 8.3 percent and land in farms 6.9 percent. But acreage of cropland harvested plus crop failure decreased 3.4 percent.





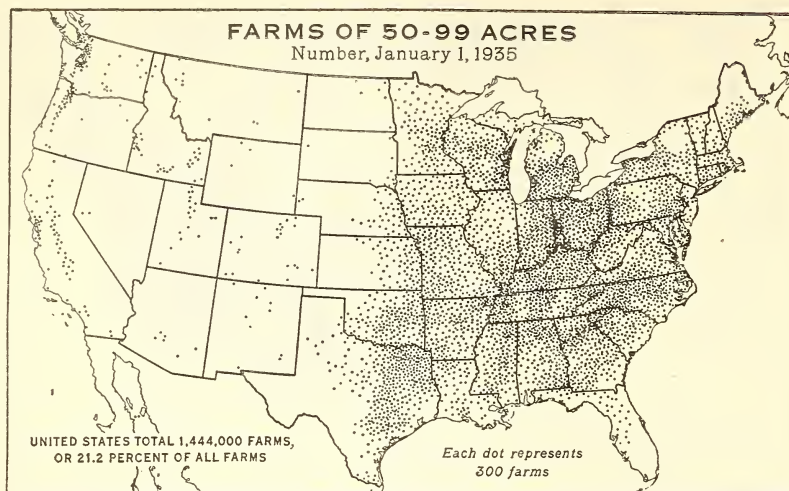
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FIGURE 12.—About 18 percent of all farms in the United States are under 20 acres in area, but these include only about 1 percent of the total farm acreage. Such small farms are numerous in the Cotton Belt, notably cropper holdings in the Yazoo delta of Mississippi; in the tobacco districts of Kentucky and the Carolinas, where tenants and croppers are also numerous; in the southern Appalachian Mountains, where the population is dense; and in the fruit and trucking districts of the Pacific and Atlantic coasts, where the farms may be large measured by value of products.



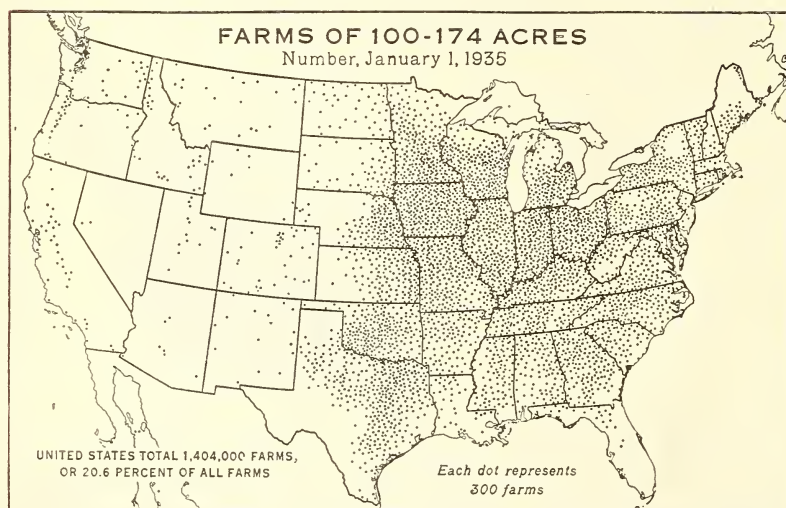
BAE 31843

FIGURE 13.—The typical Negro and "poor white" tenant farms in the South are 20 to 49 acres in size, half of which is in cotton. Many white farm owners also have small farms. In the Pacific and Atlantic Coast States most of the small farms measured in acreage (not value) grow fruits and vegetables, which require much labor per acre. Few farms of under 50 acres are located in the wheat regions or prairie portion of the Corn Belt, because grain and hay farming has been so mechanized that a farmer can handle a much larger acreage.



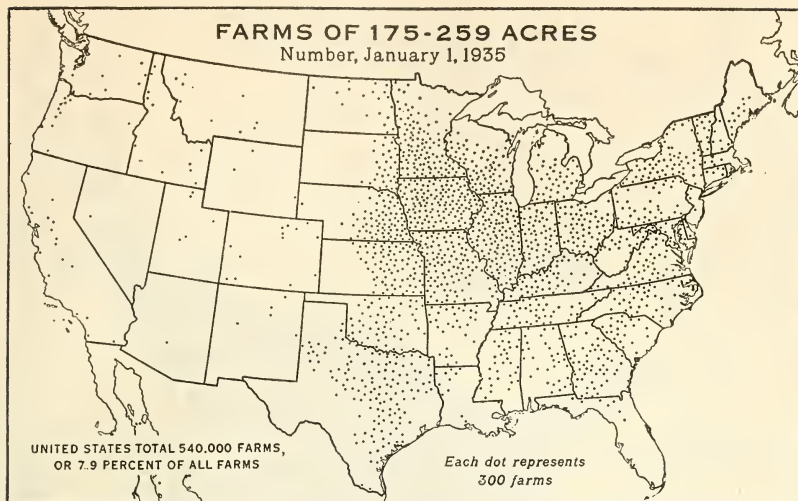
BAE 3182g

FIGURE 14.—Farms of 50 to 99 acres are characteristic of the white cotton farmers of the Georgia-Carolina piedmont and the Black Prairie of Texas; also of the general farming systems of Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan. In New York, Michigan, and Wisconsin many dairy farms are of this size. Farms of this size have been mostly carved out of the forest—even in a lifetime the pioneer could scarcely clear more land. The dots in the prairie portion of the Corn Belt represent farms devoted to more intensive systems of farming than grain growing.



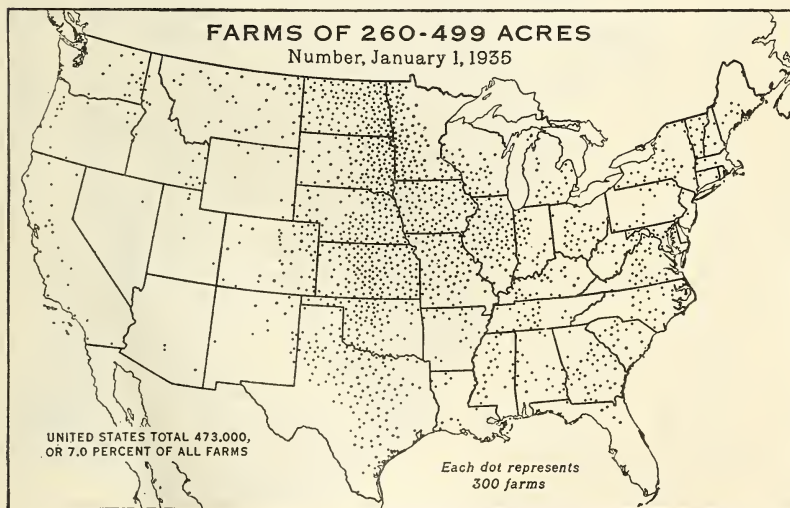
BAE 31924

FIGURE 15.—Farms of 100 to 174 acres include more land than any other census-size group. They are typical of the entire eastern half of the United States, though somewhat less numerous in much of the Cotton Belt. The original Homestead Act provided normally quarter-section (160-acre) farms. But in the western half of the Nation there are few farms of this size, because in the dry-farming and grazing areas such an acreage is too small and in the irrigated areas it is generally too large for one man to operate.



BAE 31825

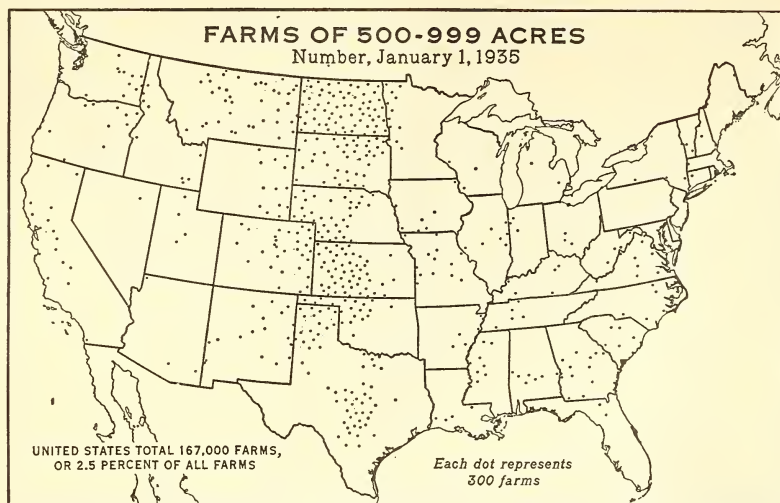
**FIGURE 16.**—Farms of 175 to 259 acres are characteristic of the crop and livestock farming regions in the humid or subhumid eastern half of the Nation. In the western half of the Nation, the irrigated farms are mostly smaller, whereas the dry-land grain farms and livestock ranches generally are larger. Over one-half of the farms of 175 to 259 acres are located in the Corn Belt and the Hay and Dairy Belt, and nearly two-fifths in the Corn and Winter Wheat Belt and the Cotton Belt. Only 5 percent are in the 11 far Western States.



BAE 31981

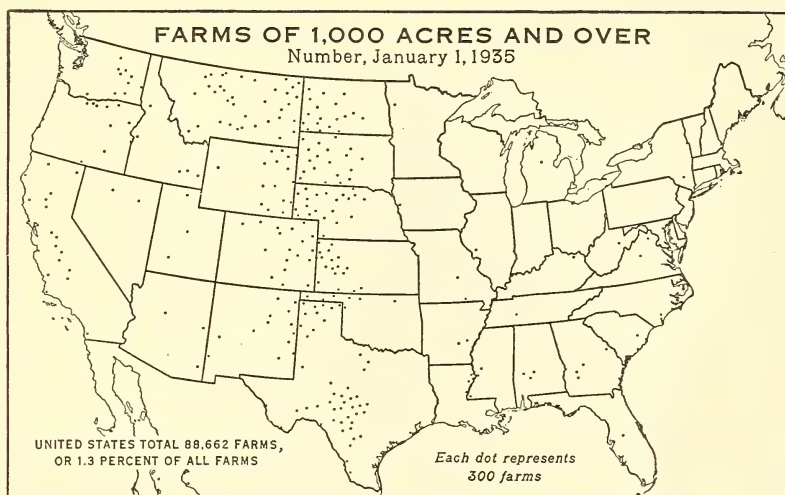
**FIGURE 17.**—Farms of 260 to 499 acres are most numerous in the Corn Belt and the Wheat Belt of the Great Plains. In these regions grain production is dominant. The invention of machinery for the production of grain has advanced further than for any other group of crops. It continues to advance, and a farmer can now plow the land, plant, and, with one helper during harvest time, harvest 250 to 500 acres of corn and small grain. The acreage increases as the proportion in corn declines.





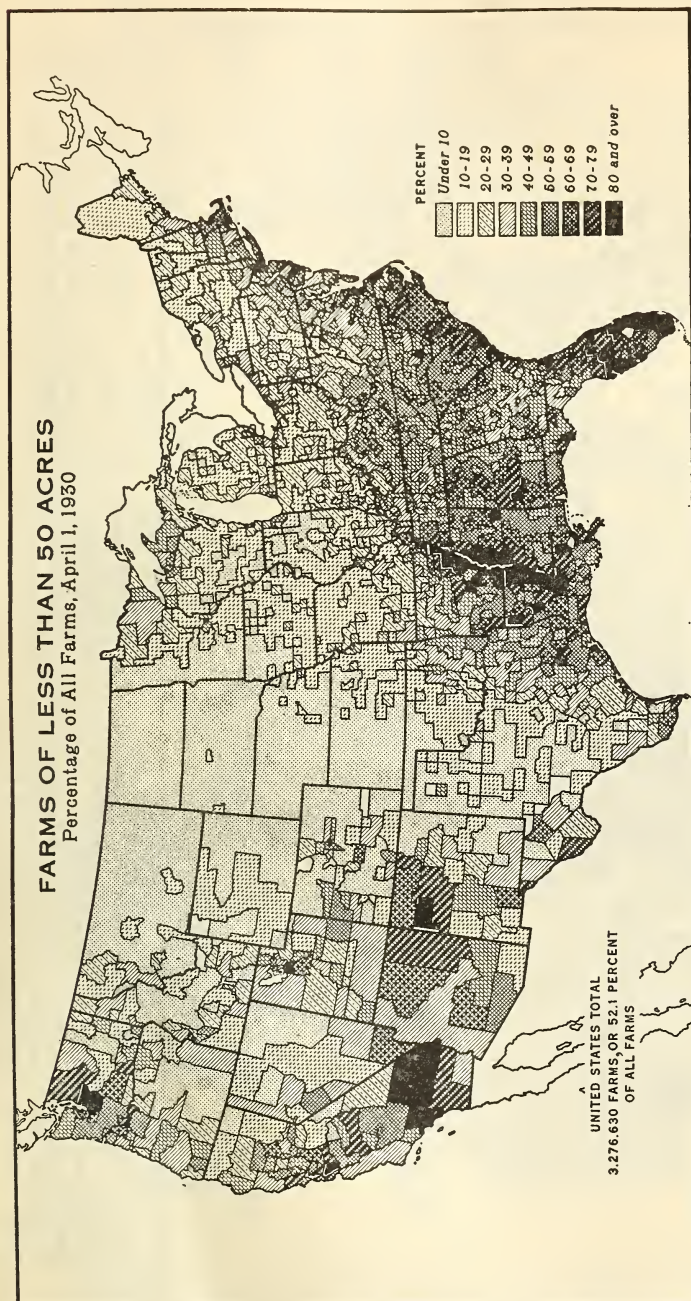
BAE 31967

FIGURE 18.—Farms of 500 to 999 acres are most numerous in the Great Plains, particularly the wheat-growing portions. In this region the improvements in machinery have tended to enlarge constantly the size of the farms. A few farms of this size will be noted also in the grain-producing sections of eastern Washington and Oregon and of California, in the Corn Belt, and in the South. Doubtless most of these farms in the Cotton Belt are plantations operated by wage hands. Not all land in these farms is in crops.



BAE 31976

FIGURE 19.—Most of the farms of 1,000 acres and over are located in the semiarid portion of the Great Plains, including the Edwards Plateau in southwestern Texas. A farmer, with one hired man and an additional man during harvest and using a tractor and a combine, can now handle two sections (1,280 acres) of wheat in the Great Plains, or in the Columbia Plateau area. In the Edwards Plateau practically all the farms are live-stock ranches, but in California they may be any type of farm. Most of them probably are grain farms or stock ranches.



BAE 232

FIGURE 20.—In the cotton-growing portion of the Mississippi River bottoms more than 80 percent of the farms, mostly cropper holdings, were less than 50 acres in size in 1930. This is true also of most of the fruit and truck districts of southern California and the Santa Clara Valley; likewise of several fruit- and truck-growing counties along the Atlantic coast from Florida to New Jersey. On the other hand, in most of the Great Plains region, with its grain and livestock farming, less than 10 percent of the farms are smaller than 50 acres. In most of the Corn Belt and much of the Dairy Belt, less than 20 percent of the farms are smaller than 50 acres.



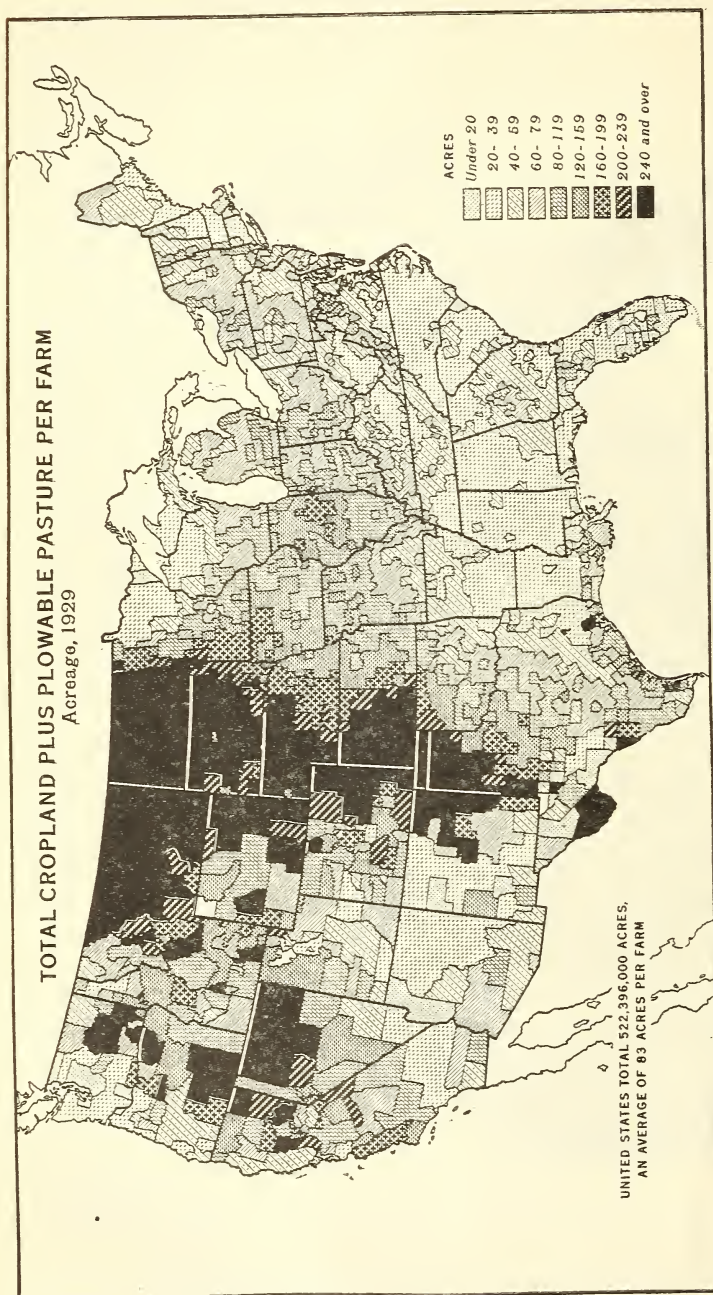
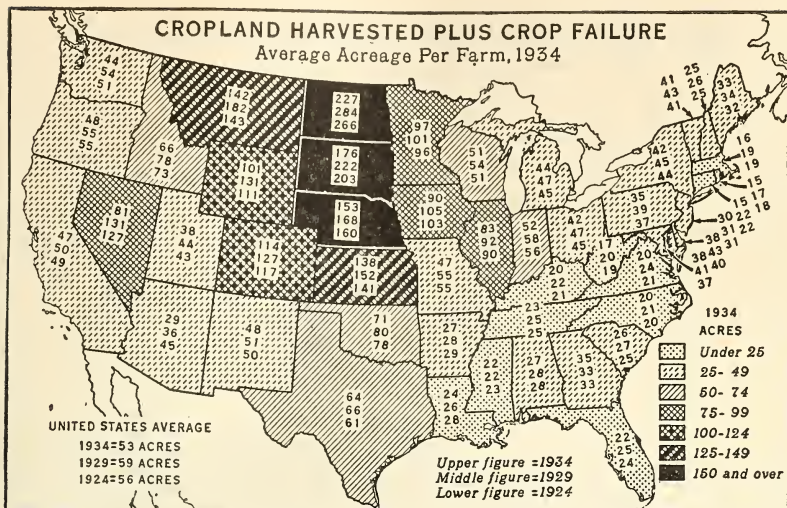


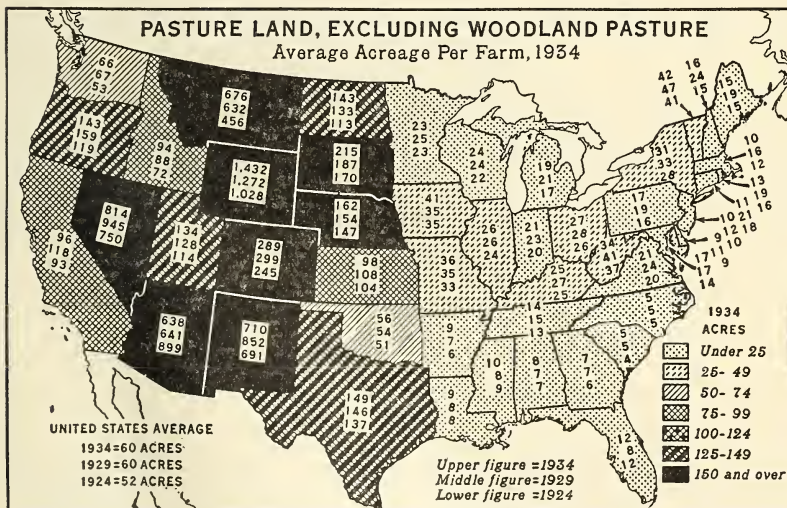
FIGURE 21.—As many farms contain woodland or poor pasture, a better statistical measure of the size of a farm than total acreage is the acreage of cropland plus plowable pasture. Measured thus, the Great Plains is the region of large farms. The eastern border of this region, where the farms average about 240 acres, is roughly the line of 23 inches of annual precipitation, and only 50 to 100 miles east of this border, at about 27 inches of rainfall, the size decreases to 160 acres. Still farther east, along the prairie-forest border, the average size decreases to 80 or 100 acres, and in most of the South, except Texas and Oklahoma, it is less than 60 acres.





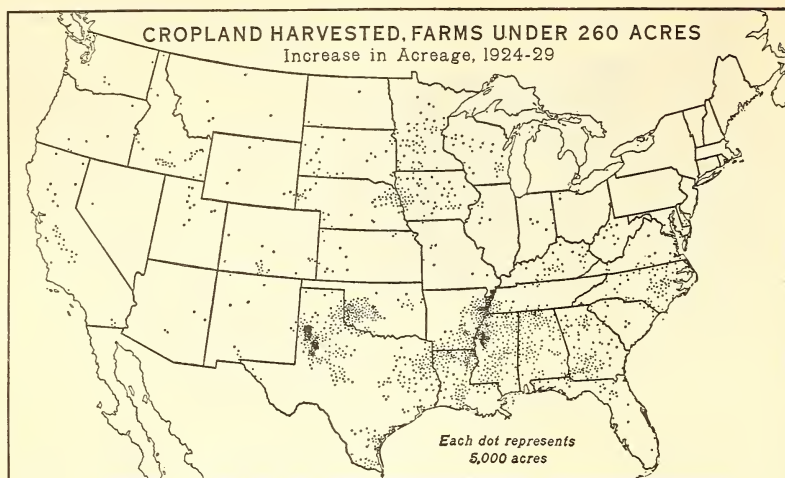
BAE 31640

FIGURE 22.—In the Great Plains States, where machinery has been applied so successfully to wheat production, the acreage of cropland (excluding fallow) per farm averages the largest. In southern New England, where there are many part-time, fruit, truck, and poultry farms, the average acreage is smallest—less than a tenth that in North Dakota. In the South the small acreage is due primarily to the cotton and tobacco crops, which require much labor. In every State, except Georgia, the average acreage decreased during the depression, doubtless in part because of many new small farms.



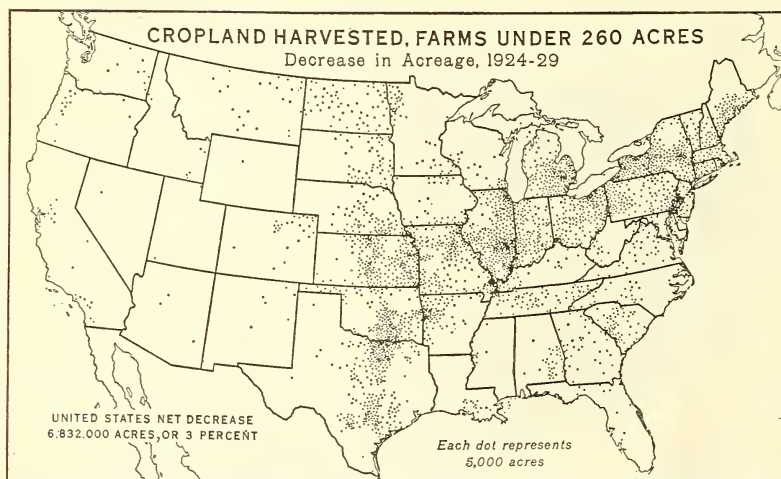
BAE 31641

FIGURE 23.—The large acreage of pasturage per farm in the far Western States is due to the inclusion of arid and semiarid grazing land, which has low carrying capacity. The range in productivity of pastures—from 1 acre to 100 acres per cow—is much wider than that of crops, hence from the standpoint of productivity comparisons should be made with caution. But it is safe to say that the pasture acreage per farm is small in the South excluding Texas and Oklahoma, and relatively large in the Corn Belt and much of the Dairy Belt.



BAE 29350

FIGURE 24.—Between 1924 and 1929 the increase in acreage of cropland harvested in farms of under 260 acres occurred mostly in the central and far-western portions of the Cotton Belt, and in eastern Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. There was some increase also in several irrigated valleys of the West. It is significant that the increase of small and medium-sized farms was mostly in those parts of the Cotton Belt where new cotton farms were being made—in the Mississippi River bottoms by drainage of the land, and in western Texas and Oklahoma by subdivision of cattle ranches and small-grain farms.



BAE 29351

FIGURE 25.—A great decrease in acreage of crops in farms of under 260 acres took place between 1924 and 1929 throughout the Northeastern States and westward across Illinois and Missouri to Kansas and central Texas. A smaller and more scattered decrease occurred in the Spring Wheat Belt. The decrease in the counties reporting a decrease totaled 15,713,000 acres. Evidently contraction was occurring in cultivated land in small and medium-sized farms in the northeast (fig. 26), and some consolidation into larger farms was occurring in the Corn Belt.



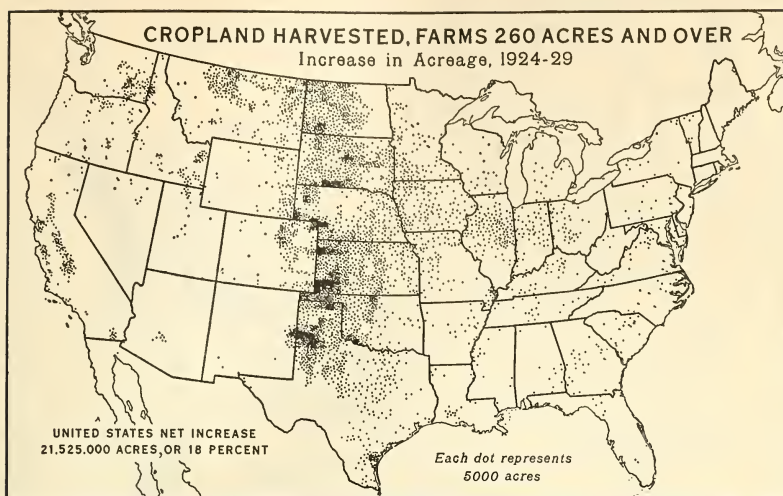


FIGURE 26.—Simultaneously a great increase in crop acreage harvested occurred in farms of 260 acres and over in the Great Plains region, and this increase extended east across the Corn Belt to central Ohio, also as far south as the Black Prairie of Texas. Evidently a great shift in crop acreage occurred from the northeast and southern Corn Belt toward the Great Plains and northwestern Corn Belt, and from farms under 260 acres toward larger farms. Crop acreage increased also in the larger farms in the valleys of the far Western States.

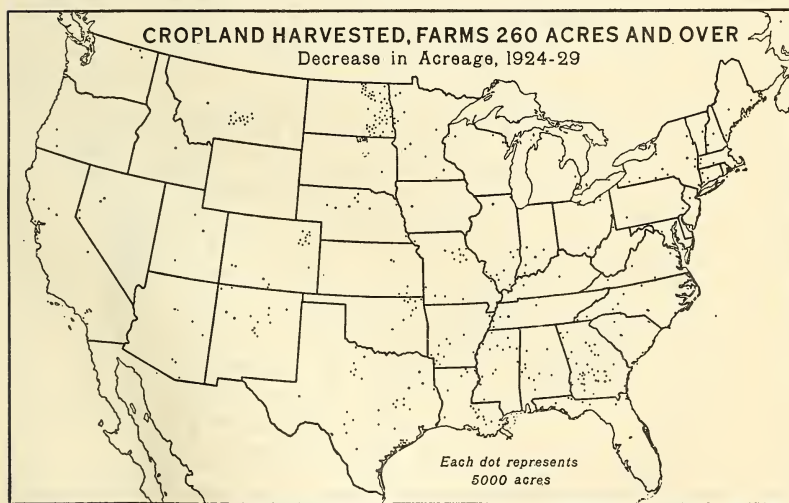
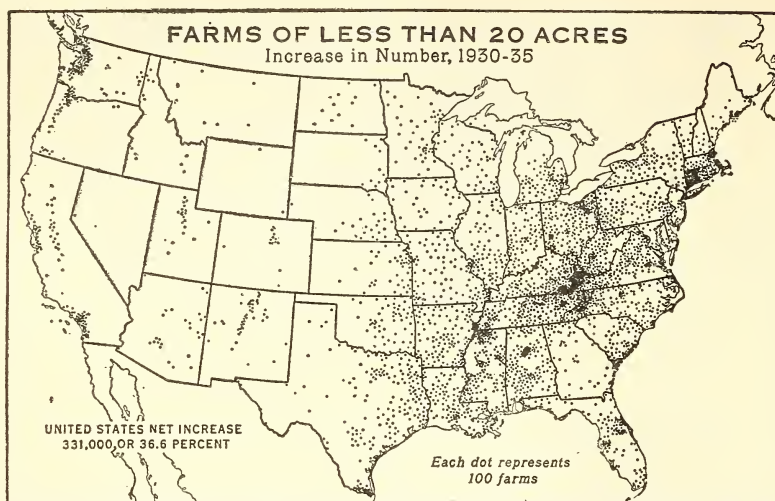
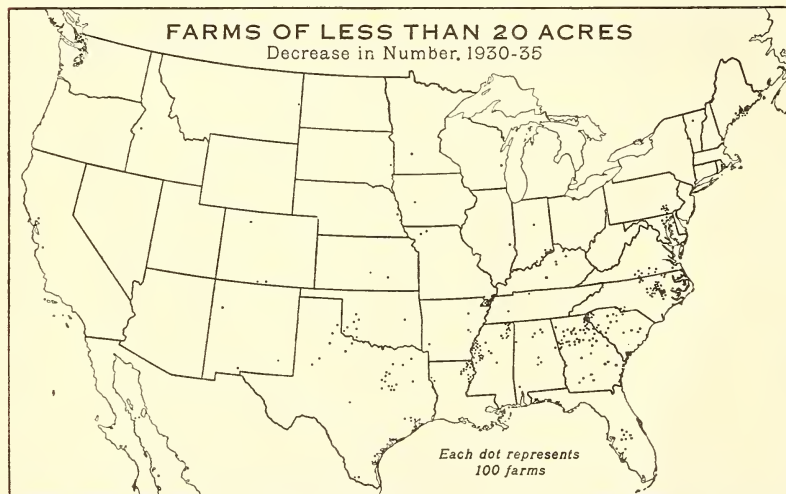


FIGURE 27.—Even in the Northeast there was little or no decrease in total crop acreage between 1924 and 1929 in farms of 260 acres and over. The decrease in crop acreage in these larger farms occurred mostly in the South, where some plantations were breaking up under the strain of low cotton prices and high labor rates, and in eastern North Dakota. Before the depression the general trend apparently was toward crop production on the large farms.



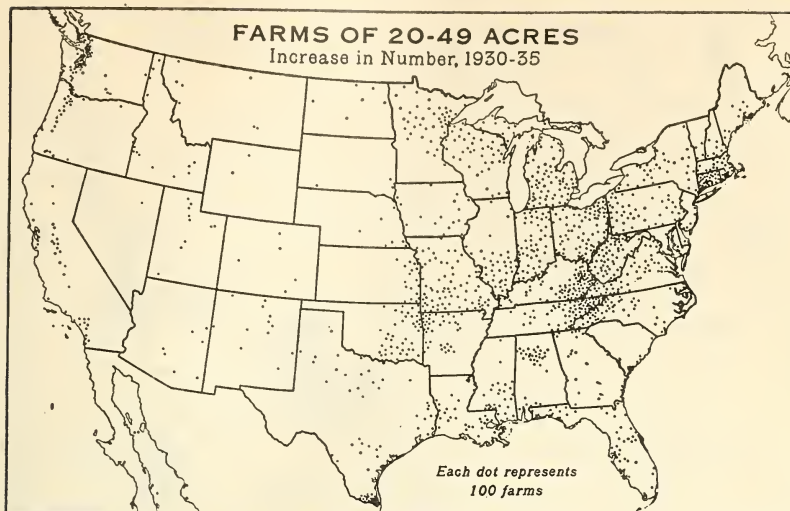
BAE 31926

FIGURE 28.—Most of the net increase of about 500,000 farms during the depression, indicated by the census, was in small farms. Much of this increase took place in the southern Appalachians, in the Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and Detroit industrial areas, and in southern New England. Most of the indicated increase in New England is due, apparently, to the inclusion in 1935 of many suburban and part-time farms that were not included in 1930. A considerable increase in small farms took place also in Ohio, Indiana, the central South, and the valleys of the Pacific coast.



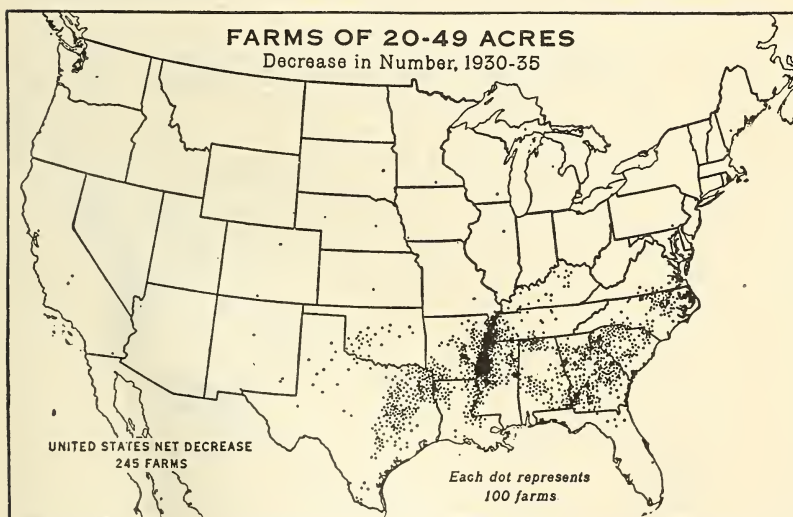
BAE 31927

FIGURE 29.—The decrease during the depression in farms of less than 20 acres was practically confined to the South. Here, apparently, the economic distress of landowners compelled dropping some of the croppers. The contraction in cotton acreage under the Agricultural Adjustment Administration program, together with the extension of relief to the former croppers, perhaps caused this decline in small holdings to persist until 1935, or later, in a number of counties. A decrease will be noted, also probably of croppers, in the tobacco districts of eastern North Carolina, southern Virginia, and Lancaster County, Pa.



BAE 31870

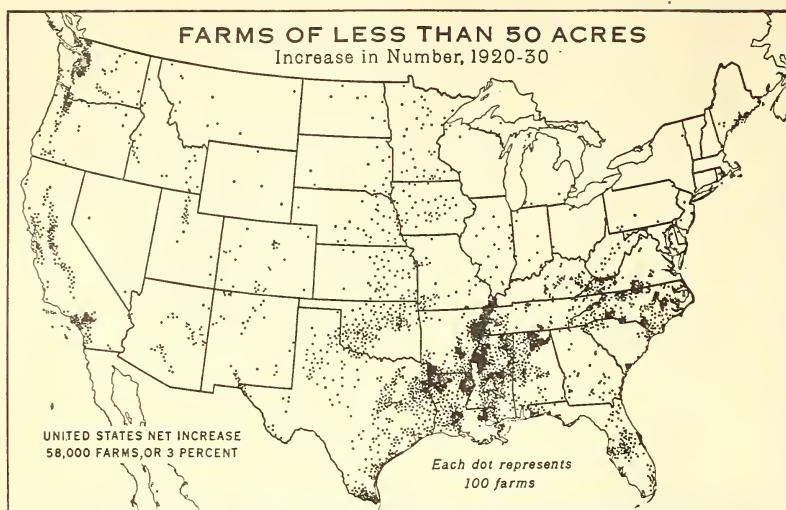
FIGURE 30.—The increase in farms of 20 to 49 acres, like that in farms of less than 20 acres, was notable in the southern Appalachians, southern New England, eastern Ohio, Indiana, and southern Illinois, but it extended in larger numbers into the cut-over area of northern Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, and into Missouri, northwestern Arkansas, and eastern Oklahoma. Although farms of this size are the most common size in the Cotton Belt the increase in that region was only local and small.



BAE 31871

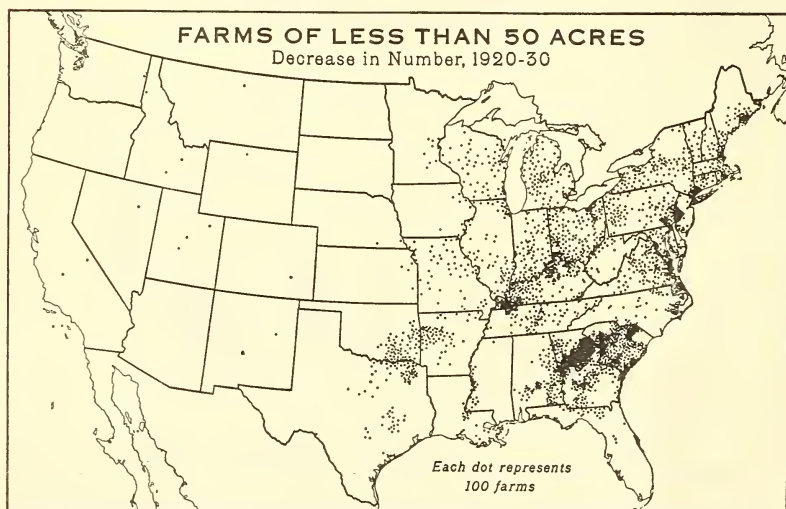
FIGURE 31.—The decrease in farms of 20 to 49 acres, as in those of smaller size, was practically confined to the South. It was especially heavy in the Yazoo delta. Part of this decrease may be due to floods along the Mississippi River, but most of it is probably assignable to economic distress in the Cotton Belt, particularly in 1931 and 1932. Some of these former croppers and tenants were doubtless still living on the plantations, but others had gone to the cities.





BAE 29342

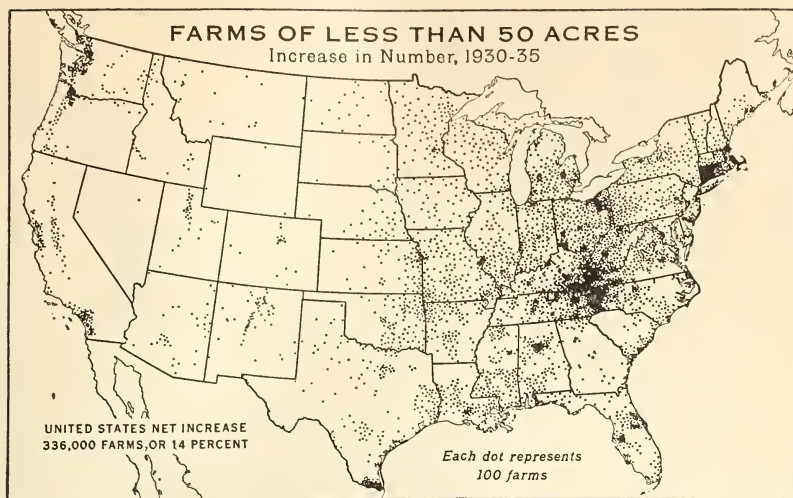
FIGURE 32.—The increase between 1920 and 1930 in number of small farms—those under 50 acres—occurred mostly in the South and the Pacific Coast States. Cotton farms were being developed on newly drained land in the Mississippi Delta and along the northern margin of the Cotton Belt, particularly in North Carolina and Oklahoma; and, apparently, there was considerable subdivision of farms, or resumption of cotton farming after the boll weevil invasion in Mississippi and Louisiana. In the Pacific coast valleys fruit, truck, and poultry farms continued to replace grain farms and livestock ranches.



BAE 29343

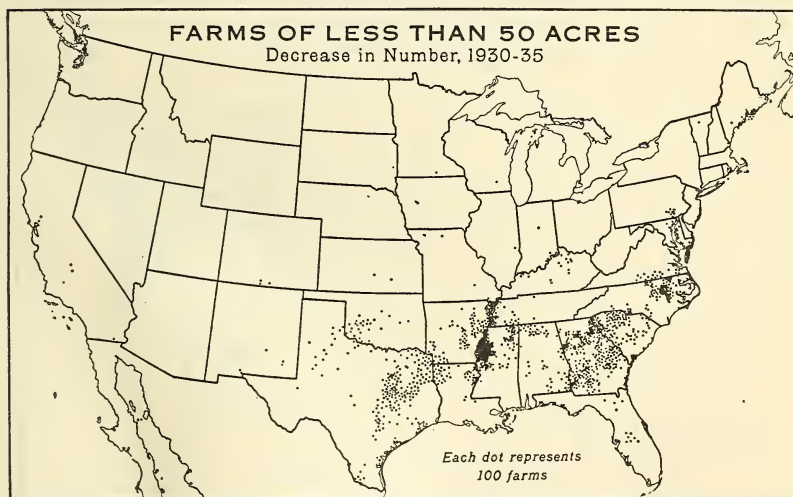
FIGURE 33.—The boll weevil spread into Georgia and South Carolina during this decade, and losses of soil fertility by erosion had become severe. Hundreds of thousands of farm people in these States left for the cities, northern as well as southern. A decrease in small farms occurred also in most of the counties north of the Cotton Belt and east of the Mississippi River. Urban prosperity attracted the youth from the farms, and much consolidation of farms occurred, with abandonment in hilly areas and subdivision for residential purposes around the cities.





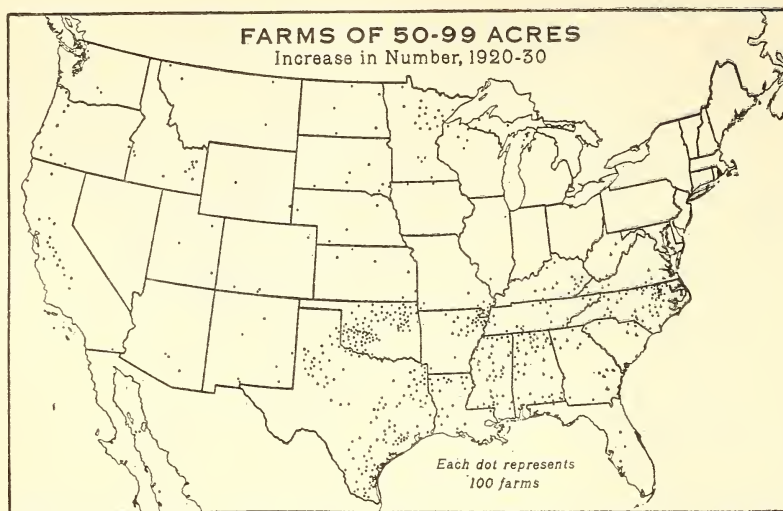
BAE 31988

FIGURE 34.—The region of increase of farms of less than 50 acres during the economic depression resembled the region of decrease during the preceding decade of urban prosperity, except that it was notably heavy in the southern Appalachians and almost absent in Georgia and South Carolina. The decline in small farms in these States has persisted (fig. 33). The contrast between the decline, during the depression, in the number of small farms in much of the Cotton Belt (fig. 35) and the universal increase in the number in regions to the north is very noticeable.



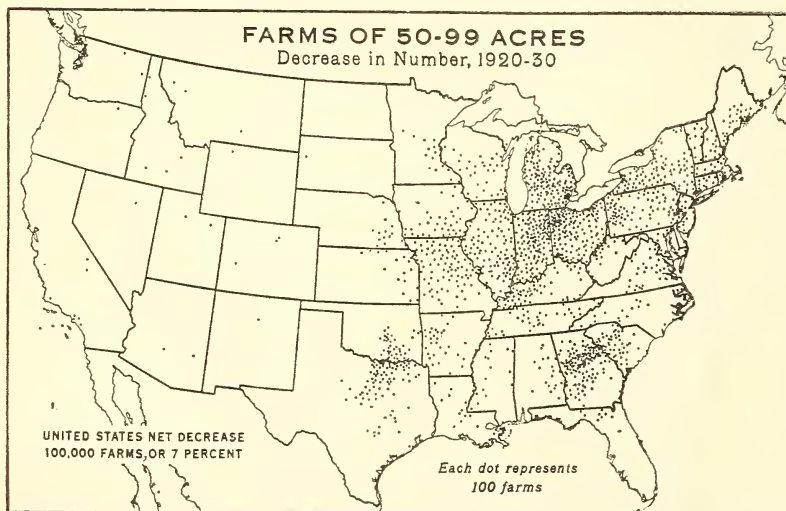
BAE 31989

FIGURE 35.—The decline in small farms in the Cotton Belt during the depression was notable in many plantation and other highly commercialized areas. The unemployed in these areas did not go back to the land. Apparently many left the farms. The decline was notably heavy in the Yazoo Delta and to the northward on the Tennessee as well as the Arkansas side of the Mississippi River, reversing the trend of the preceding decade (fig. 32). But the decline in Georgia and South Carolina continued (fig. 33).



BAE 29344

FIGURE 36.—The increase between 1920 and 1930 in number of farms of 50 to 99 acres was small and scattered. The greatest increase occurred in Texas and Oklahoma, and was associated with decreases locally in farms of larger sizes. This was doubtless due in part to the breaking up of cattle ranches and grain farms for the production of cotton. In Mississippi, Alabama, and North Carolina the increase was also associated with a decrease in larger farms. The increase in Minnesota and Wisconsin consists almost wholly of new farms cleared out of the forest.



BAE 29345

FIGURE 37.—The decrease in farms of 50 to 99 acres, like those of less than 50 acres, was heavy in Georgia and South Carolina, and for the same reasons. In the Corn Belt and eastward the decrease was also partly due to the unprofitableness of agriculture. But the very high wages in nearby cities was a factor. Many farmers left their farms to be operated by a neighbor while they worked in the cities. In the Northeastern States the decrease was due both to consolidation of farms, and, in some hilly districts, to abandonment of farms.

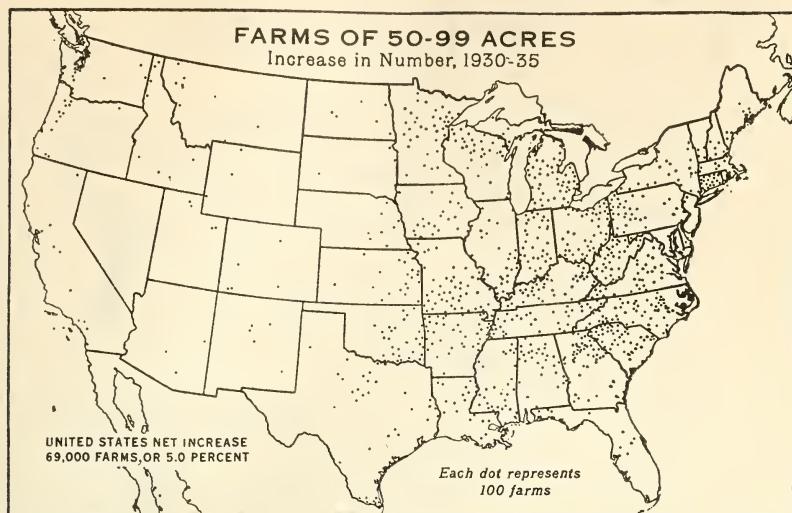


FIGURE 38.—During the depression, farms of 50 to 99 acres increased in most of the United States, except in portions of the Cotton Belt, where a reduction in total number of farms occurred in many counties. But the increase in the Corn Belt, Michigan, and the Northeastern States did not equal the decrease in the preceding decade. The increase continued in the upper Great Lakes region and the North Pacific coast. In general, the increase in farms of 50 to 99 acres was greatest in areas of poor to fair soils.

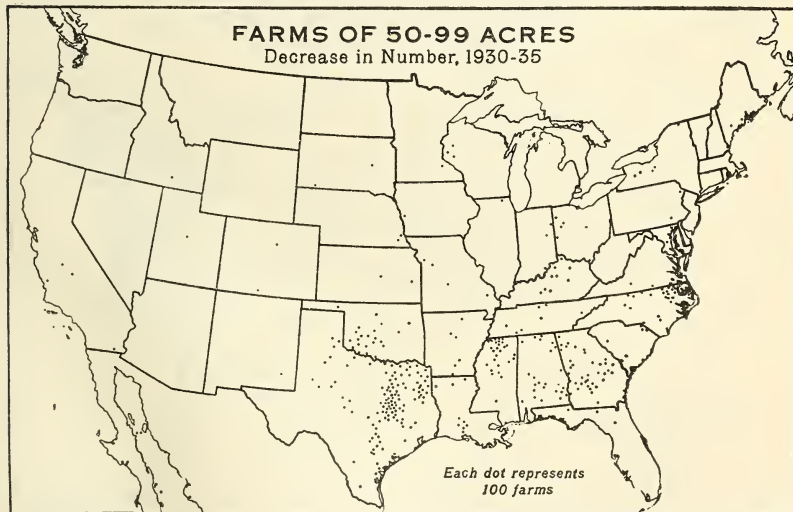
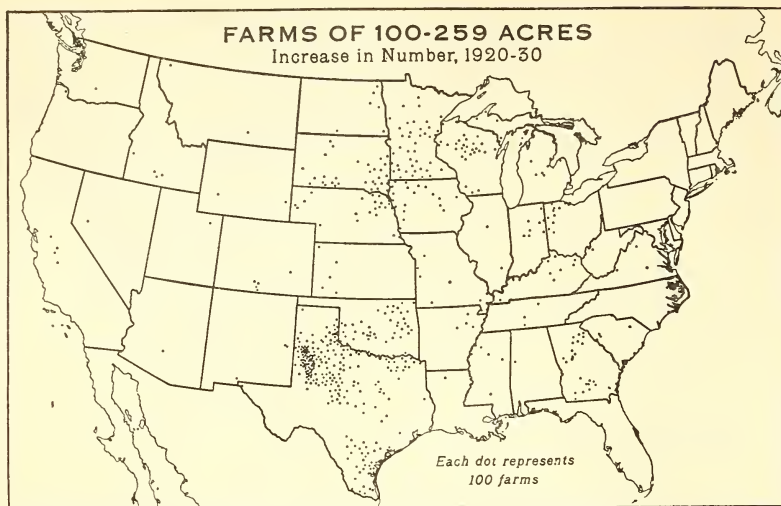


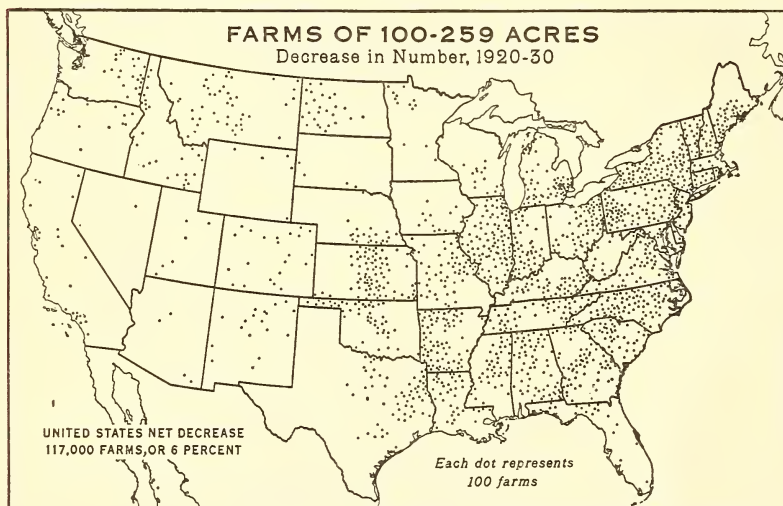
FIGURE 39.—The decrease in farms of 50 to 99 acres between 1930 and 1935 was almost wholly confined to certain portions of the Cotton Belt, where several years of low cotton prices had exhausted the resources of many farmers, and where the program of the original Agricultural Adjustment Administration perhaps affected the operation of the larger holdings in plantations as well as those of under 50 acres. A decline in farms of 50 to 99 acres will be noted in a few counties of Kentucky, western Ohio, western New York, and northwestern Wisconsin.





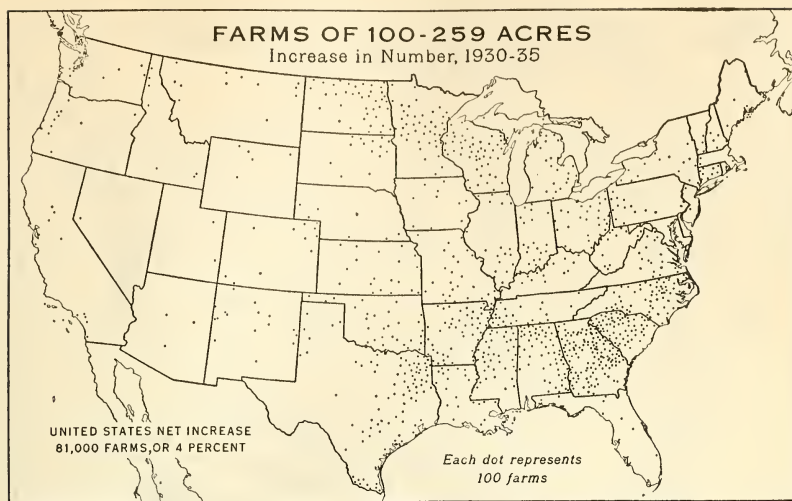
BAE 29346

FIGURE 40.—The increase of farms of 100 to 259 acres was almost wholly confined to the Great Plains and Great Lakes States, northern Iowa, northwestern Ohio and adjacent Indiana, and Georgia. In Texas and Oklahoma the expansion of cotton production along the dry western and cool northern margin of the Cotton Belt divided up some grain farms and livestock ranches, and in the Dakotas and Minnesota the expansion of dairying and corn and hay farming broke up some wheat farms. Farms in each of the four size groups increased in both these areas.



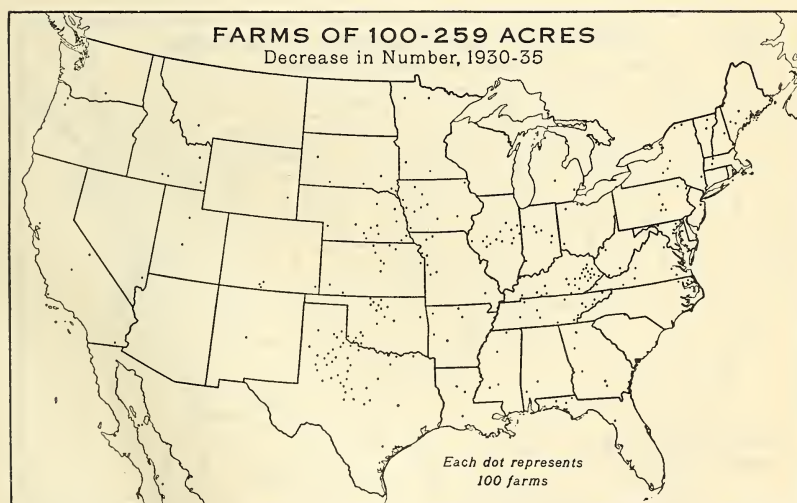
BAE 29347

FIGURE 41.—A decrease in farms of 100 to 259 acres occurred between 1920 and 1930 in nearly all the eastern half of the Nation, except the Lakes States, northern Iowa, western Ohio, eastern Indiana, and parts of Georgia. In central Illinois some consolidation into larger farms apparently occurred, but the decrease in most of the East and Southeast of smaller and larger farms as well indicates that this decrease of farms of 100 to 259 acres was part of a general decrease in farms of all sizes.



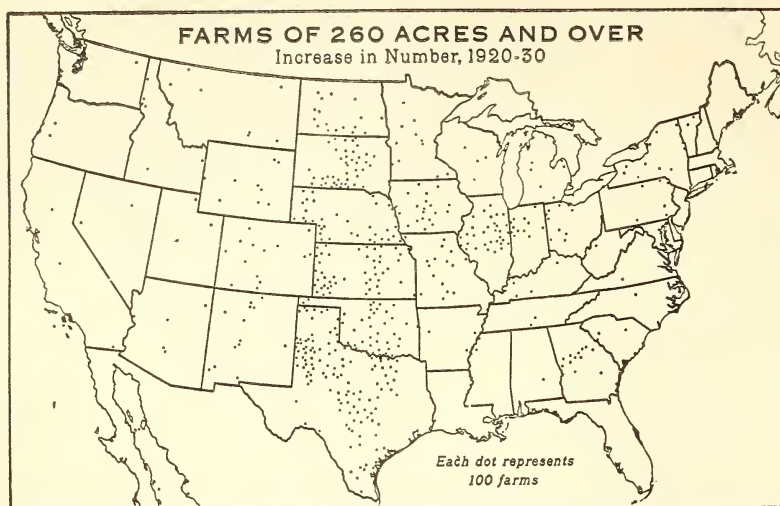
BAE 31977

FIGURE 42.—The increase in farms of 100 to 259 acres during the depression occurred mostly in the South, and in Ohio, Indiana, the Lakes States, and the Dakotas. During the previous decade there was a notable decrease in farms of this size in most of the South, except western Texas, and parts of Oklahoma (fig. 41). Apparently the reduction in croppers and tenants induced an increase in size of farms. The increase in the upper Great Lakes region, where settlement is still in progress, was mostly a continuation of a previous trend.



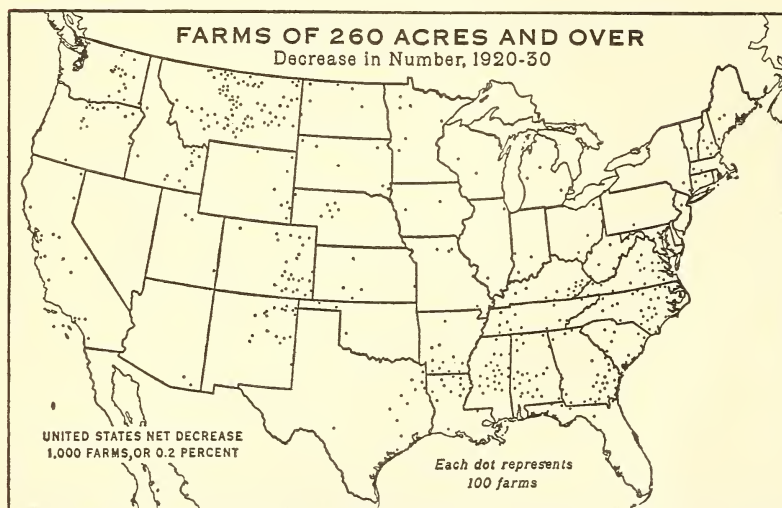
BAE 31978

FIGURE 43.—The decrease in number of farms of 100 to 259 acres during the depression was small and scattered. In eastern Kentucky, many farms of this size were evidently subdivided into smaller farms, and this doubtless was also the case with some farms in western Texas, central Oklahoma, and eastern Nebraska (figs. 34 and 38). In these Plains States, however, and notably in Illinois, other farms of this size appear to have been consolidated into larger farms (fig. 46). Farms of medium size declined in relative importance between 1930 and 1935.



BAE 29343, 29348

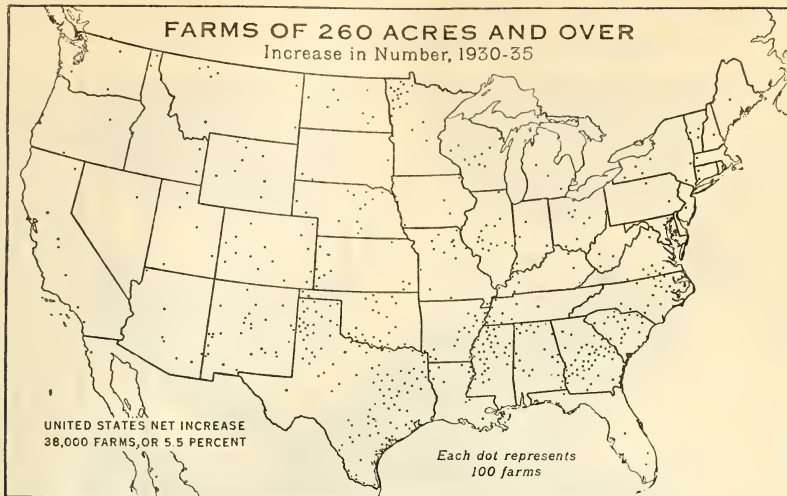
FIGURE 44.—The increase of farms of 260 acres and over between 1920 and 1930 took place mostly in the Great Plains States and in the Corn Belt. Here the tractor and the small-grain combine and corn harvester were rapidly increasing the acreage of grain a farmer could handle. An increase of a few hundred such farms will be noted in the Great Lakes States, New York, Pennsylvania, and Georgia, also locally in the Rocky Mountain region. Many of these farms probably were the result of the renting of additional land by unusually capable farmers.



BAE 29349

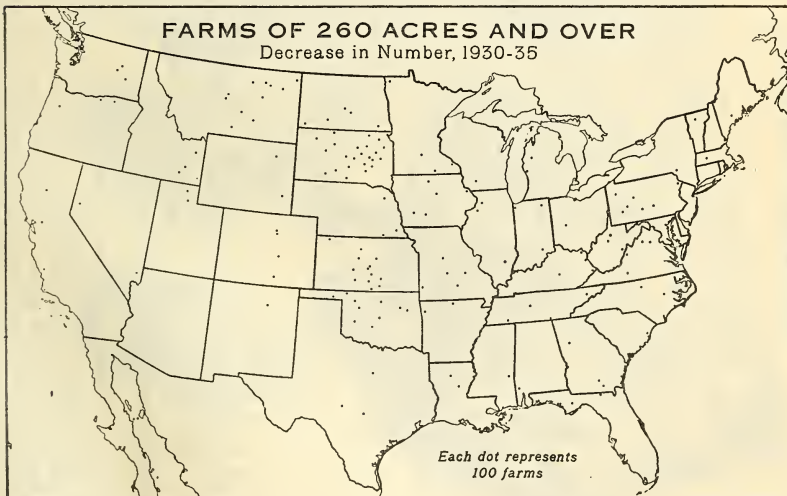
FIGURE 45.—Most of the decrease in farms of 260 acres and over between 1920 and 1930 occurred (1) in the Southeastern States, where many plantations were breaking up, and (2) in the plains portions of New Mexico, Colorado, Montana, and the Columbia Plateau of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho—all semiarid areas of previous expansion in wheat production. Apparently, many farms even of this acreage were too small to support a family and were consolidated into larger farms. In Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, and California the decrease is doubtless attributable to subdivision of farms.





BAE 3198

FIGURE 46.—The increase in number of large farms during the depression was notable in the Cotton Belt. It was associated in part with a decline in small farms (fig. 31) and suggests a tendency to substitute wage hands for croppers as well as rental of larger holdings to tenants. The increase in western Texas, New Mexico, and the drier portions of the Great Plains, and in northern Missouri, Illinois, Wisconsin, and northwestern Minnesota indicates that enlargement of farms and consolidation of two farms into one was taking place locally even during the depression.



BAE 31983

FIGURE 47.—The decrease in farms of over 260 acres during the depression occurred principally in the Great Plains, mostly in Montana, South Dakota, Kansas, and Oklahoma. The droughts caused the abandonment of many farms in this region and others were consolidated into still larger farms, thus reducing the number of such farms. The occasional decrease in the Eastern States is mostly associated with subdivision into smaller farms, but in the Corn Belt both subdivision into smaller and consolidation into larger farms were in progress.

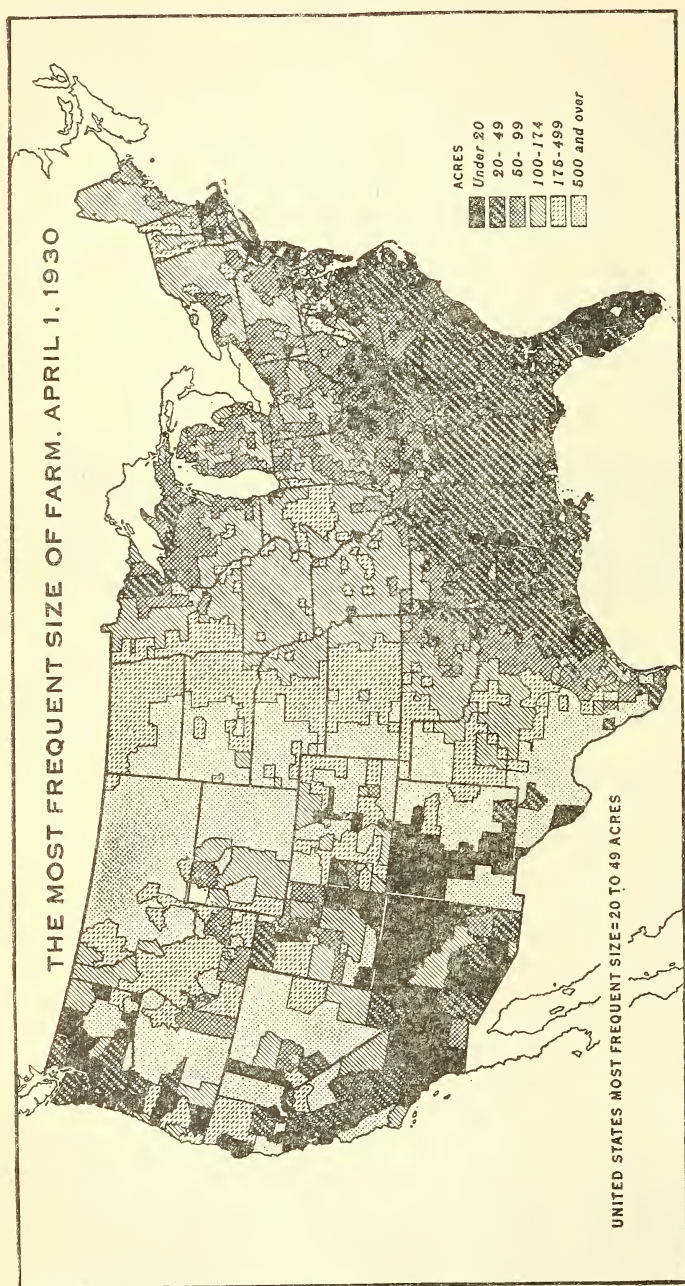
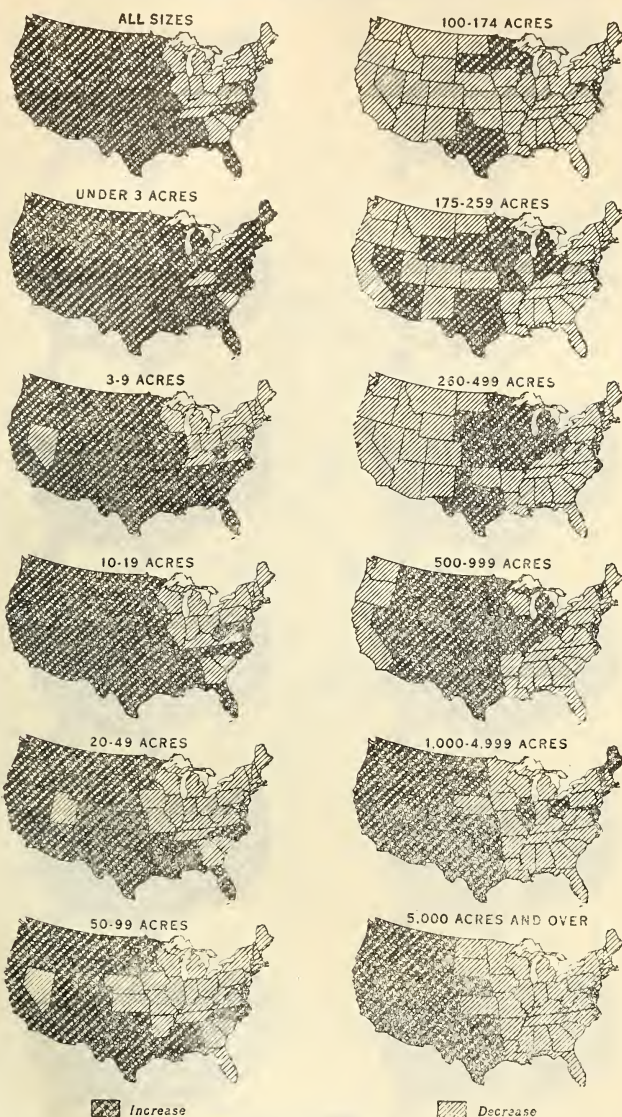


FIGURE 48.—The size of the farm is associated with the labor requirement per acre, and that in turn is dependent in large part on the use of power and machinery. Cotton is still picked by hand and tobacco makes even heavier requirements per acre for labor; hence, in most of the "Old South," the farms, many of which are tenant or cropper holdings in plantations, average less than 50 acres. In Arizona and New Mexico some of the small farms are the result of homestead filings on a water hole which controls the grazing on thousands of acres of surrounding range. In the North Atlantic and Pacific States and Utah, much labor per acre is required on the many small poultry, fruit, truck, and sugar-beet farms.



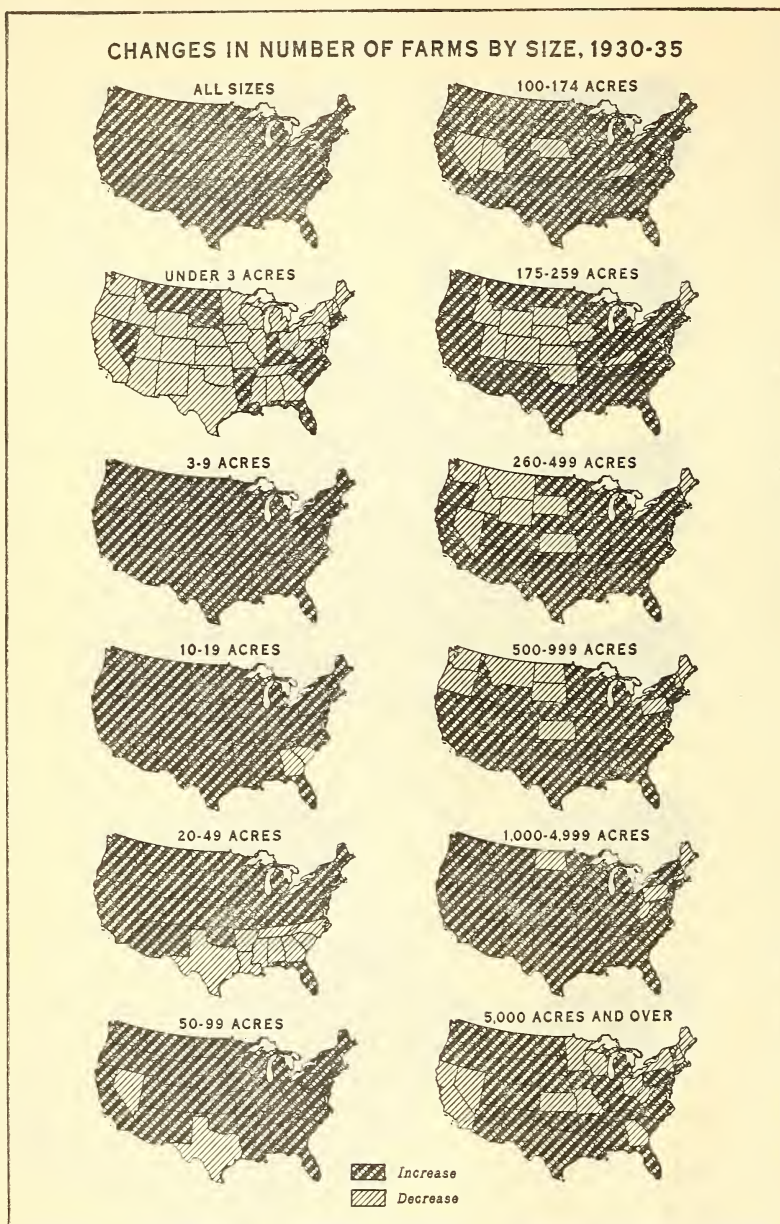
## CHANGE IN NUMBER OF FARMS BY SIZE. 1920-30



BAE 23915

FIGURE 49.—Between 1920 and 1930, small farms increased in number throughout the West and in most of the South. The smaller of the medium-sized farms, 50 to 174 acres, decreased in number in most of the Eastern States, and those of 100 to 174 acres decreased in the far West. The larger medium-sized farms, 175 to 499 acres, increased in most of the North Central States and in Texas, but decreased in the Northeast and Southeast and in most of the far West. Large farms, over 500 acres, increased in number in the West, except that those of 500 to 999 acres decreased in the Pacific Coast States. In general, the trend was away from the medium-sized toward smaller farms, but in the central and far West toward larger farms also.





BAE 32045

FIGURE 50.—The total number of farms of all sizes and those of 3 to 9 acres increased in all States between 1930 and 1935, also of 10 to 19 acres in all States except two. Farms of 20 to 49 acres increased in all States, outside the Cotton Belt, and of 50 to 99 acres in all States, except Texas and Nevada. Fairly large farms—175 to 999 acres in area—increased in number, except in the Northwest and Maine. It was a period of general increase in all sizes of farms, except those under 3 acres, which are few in number, and except farms of 20 to 49 acres in the Cotton Belt.

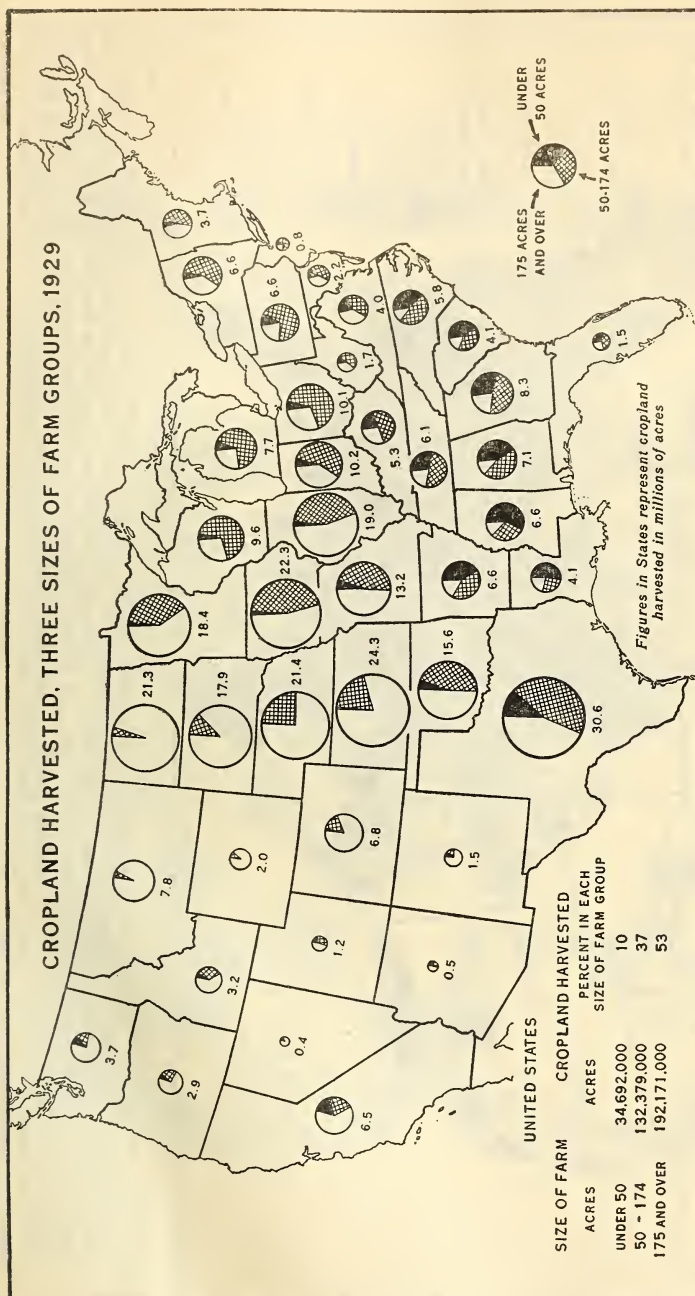


FIGURE 51.—In the Cotton Belt States, except Texas and Oklahoma, a third to a half or more of the cropland harvested was in farms of under 50 acres in 1929, and most of the remainder in farms of 50 to 174 acres. In the originally forested Northern States, a half to three-fourths of the cropland was in farms of 50 to 174 acres, and most of the remainder in farms of 175 acres and over. In the Prairie and Great Plains States, and west to the coast, excluding Utah and Arizona, a half or more of the cropland was in farms of 175 acres and over; in North Dakota and Montana over 90 percent of the crop acreage was in such farms.

BAE 29 09



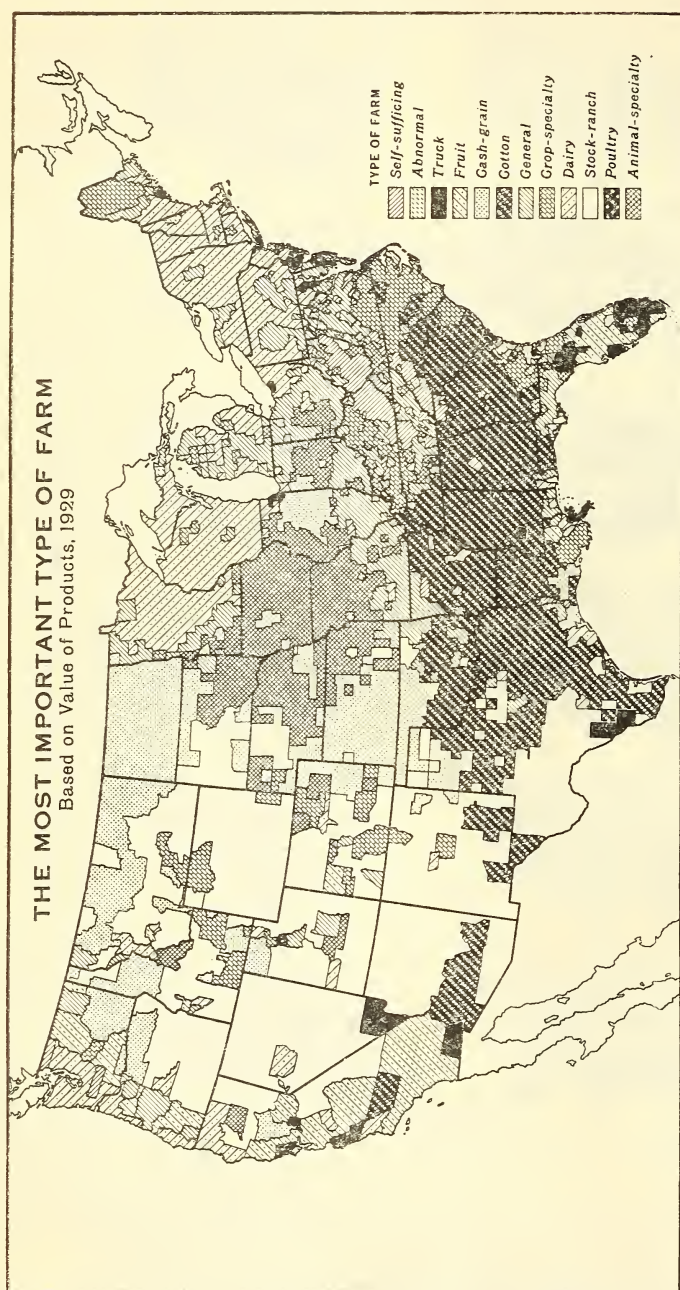


FIGURE 52.—In the United States, free competition and good transportation facilities make the type of farming sensitive to the climatic conditions. Note the latitudinal (temperature) stratification of the types of farming in the East, and the longitudinal (moisture) stratification in the West. Note also in how few counties in the Cotton Belt cotton farming is not the dominant type, how few in the Corn and Winter Wheat Belt in which general farming, tobacco farming, or self-sufficing farming are not dominant, and how dairying predominates in the Dairy Belt. In the Corn Belt the two areas of "animal-specialty" (corn, hog, and beef-cattle farms) are separated by a fertile area in central Illinois in which the corn is sold rather than fed.

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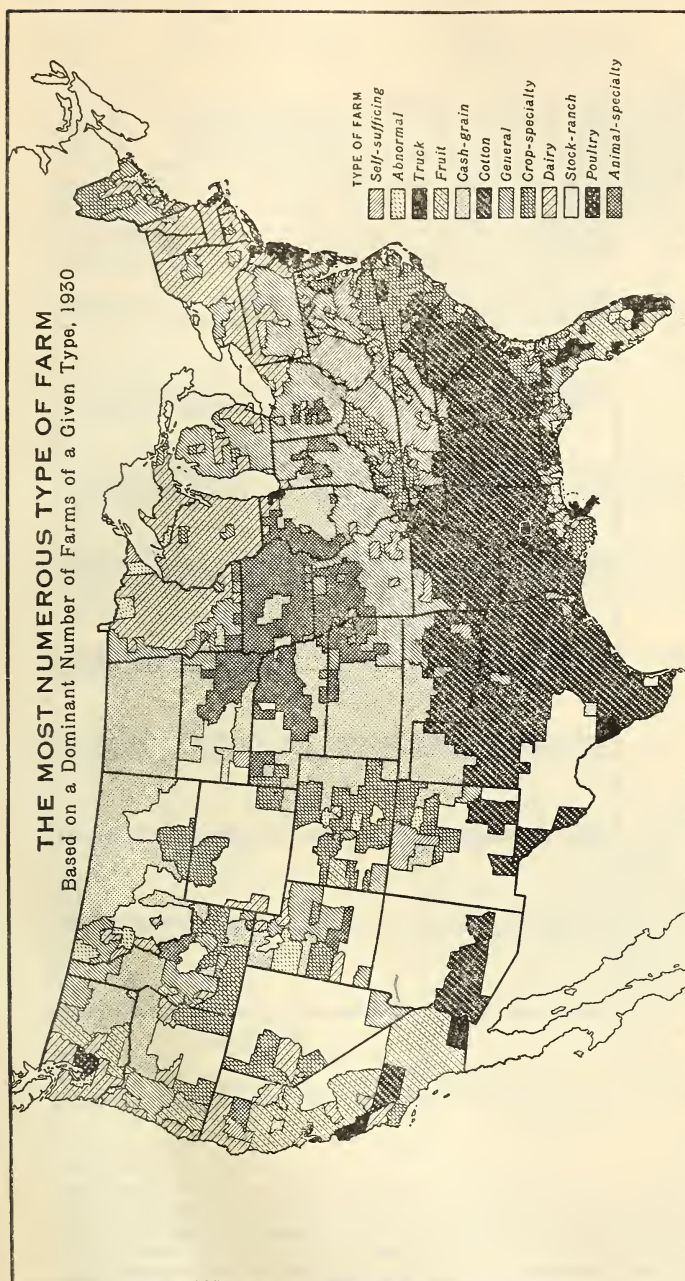
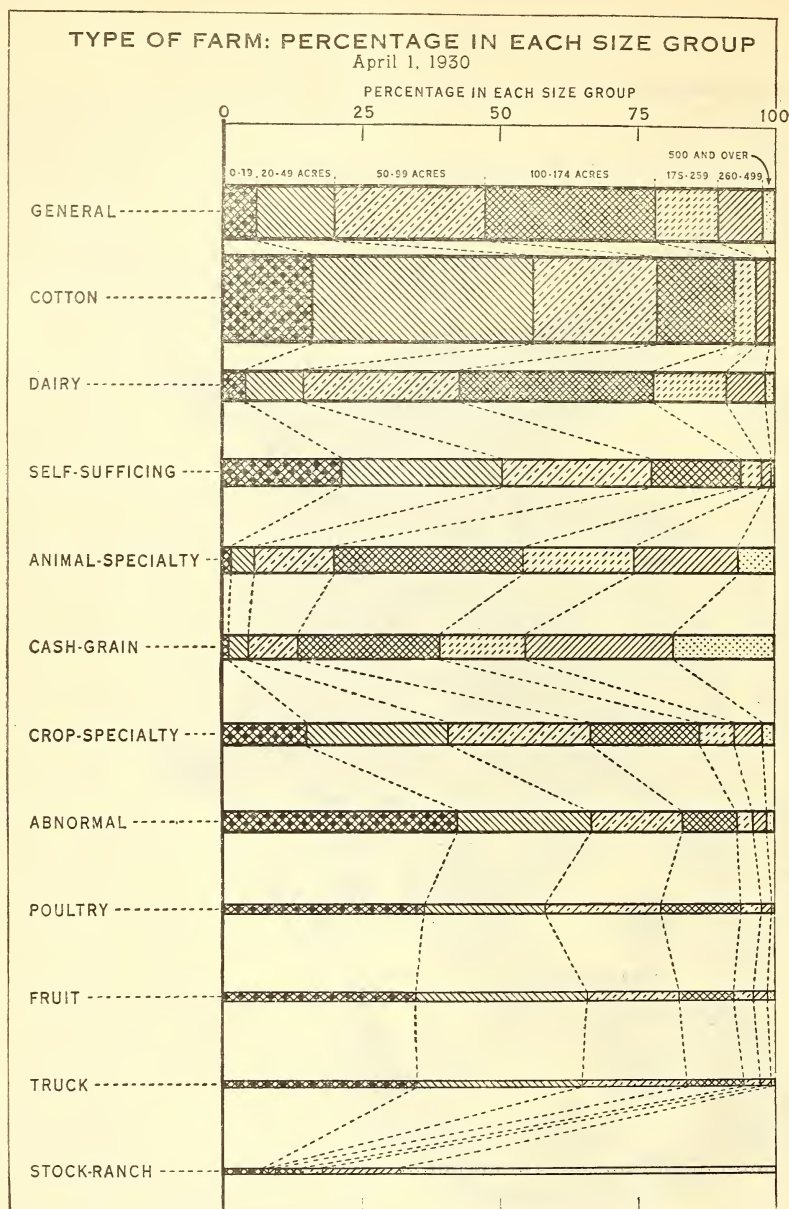


FIGURE 53.—When the basis is the number of farms rather than the value of products, the geographic distribution of types of farms is similar, except in detail. The Cotton Belt extends a little farther north in places, also the northern margin of the general farming region, with consequent contraction, particularly in Pennsylvania and Michigan, in the Dairy Belt. The animal-specialty (corn, hog, and beef-cattle) farms of the Corn Belt fail to dominate as many counties as when the classification is based on value, and more counties in the far West now fall into the crop-specialty (mostly sugar-beet and potato) group. But the general picture of the geographic distribution of types of farming remains much the same.

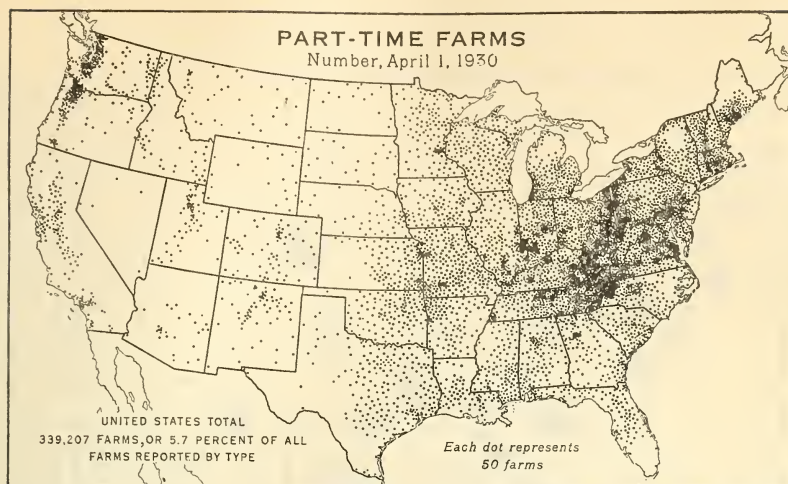
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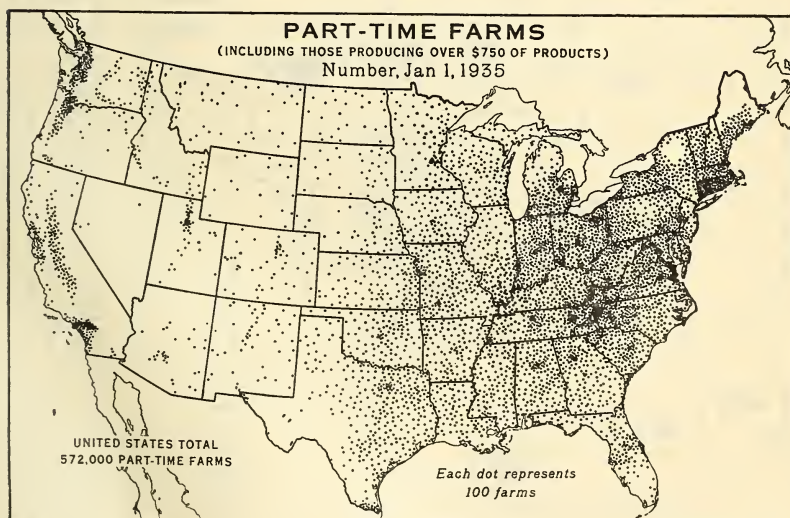
FIGURE 54.—Nearly half the general farms and dairy farms are less than 100 acres in size, and considerably over three-fourths of the cotton farms, counting separately each cropper farm on a plantation. About half of the self-sufficing farms are less than 50 acres in size. On the other hand, only a very small percentage of the animal-specialty and cash-grain farms are smaller than 50 acres, while nearly half the animal-specialty farms are over 175 acres in size and nearly half of the cash-grain farms are over 260 acres. The most frequent size of general, of dairy, and of cash-grain farms is 100 to 174 acres, of cotton and of self-sufficing farms, 20 to 49 acres, of poultry, fruit, and truck farms, under 20 acres. The width of each bar varies with the number of farms.





BAE 28520

FIGURE 55.—Part-time farms are most numerous in the southern Appalachian Mountains, where the farms are small, the land is hilly, and the soil generally poor; consequently, the farmers supplement the income from farming by work off the farm. Part-time farms are numerous also around the cities, particularly industrial cities and those located in areas of poor, cheap land. Many industrial employees, and commercial and professional workers, supplement their wages or other income and obtain a more favorable rural environment for the family by caring for a garden and keeping chickens and occasionally a goat or cow.



BAE 31551

FIGURE 56.—In the 1930 census classification part-time farms were those on which the operator worked more than 150 days off the farm, provided the value of products did not exceed \$750. How many farms were eliminated because of greater value of products is unknown. In the census of 1935 this limitation could not be applied. The increase of nearly 70 percent, therefore, exceeds reality. A large increase, perhaps nominal, apparently occurred in southern New England. A dot on the map above represents 100 farms, and on the 1930 map only 50 farms.



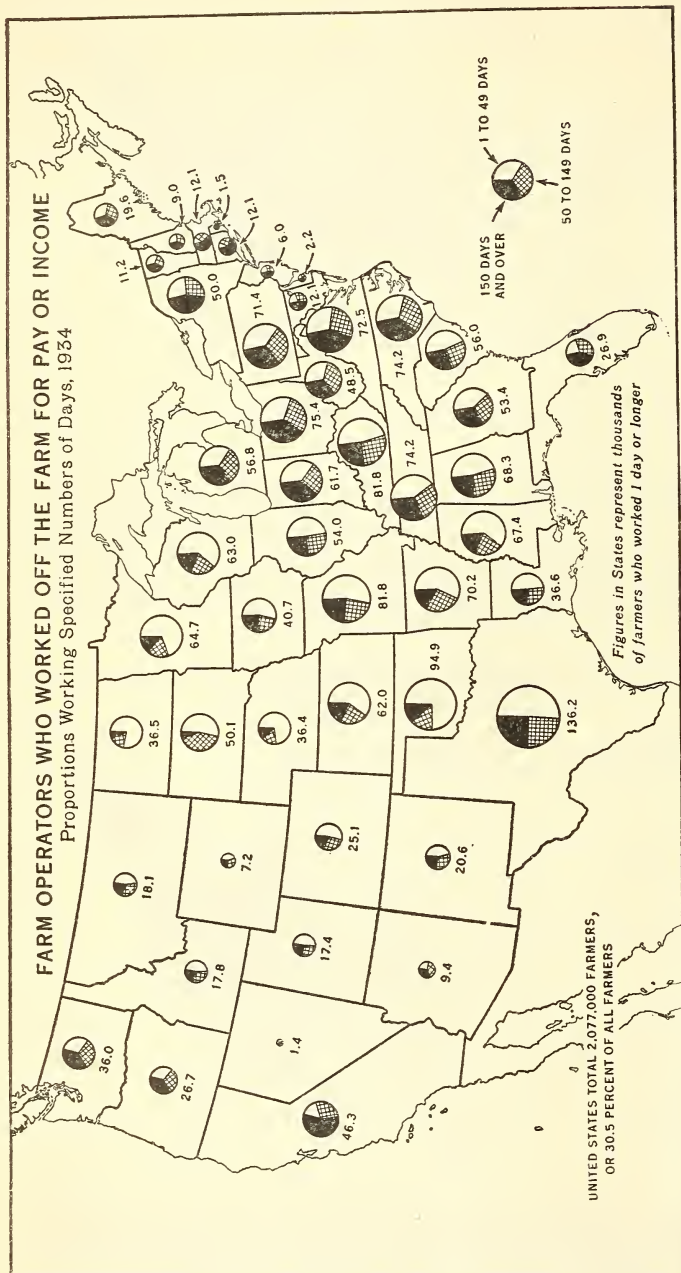
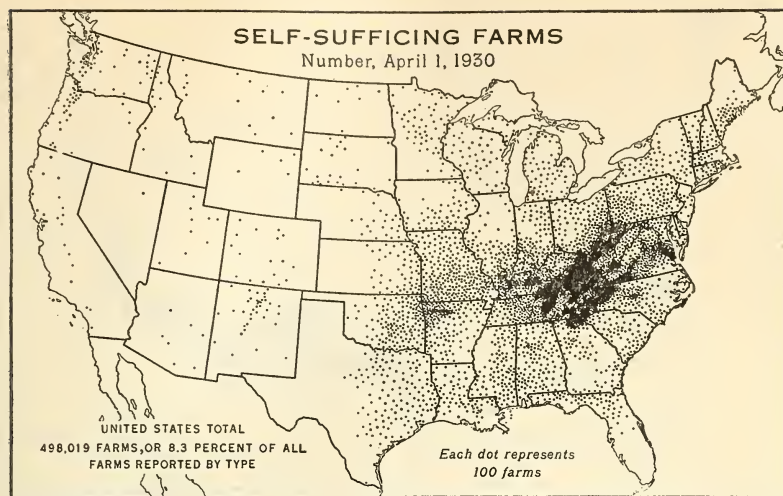
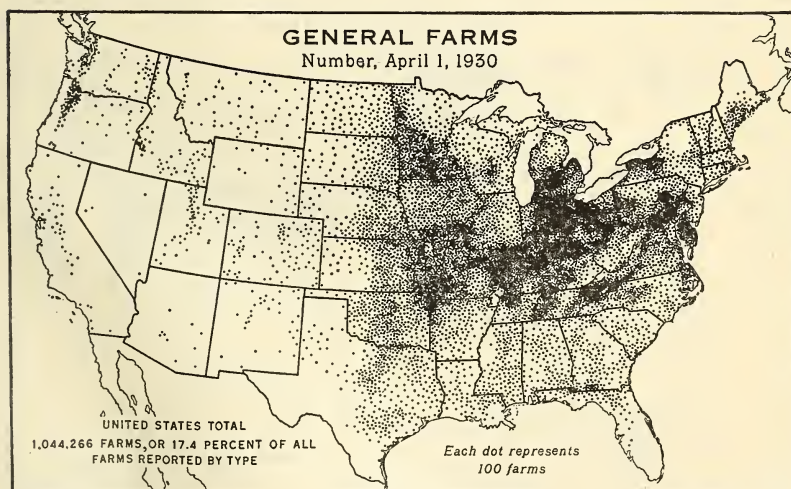


FIGURE 57.—Over 2,000,000 farmers in the United States worked off the farm in 1934 for "pay or income." Of these, 29 percent worked 1 to 24 days, 17 percent worked 25 to 49 days, 26 percent worked 50 to 149 days, 13 percent worked 150 to 249 days, and nearly 15 percent worked 250 days and over. Those who worked 150 days or over were classified as part-time farmers. These constituted over half the farmers who worked off the farm 1 day or more in southern New England and California. In the United States as a whole more than three-fourths of the farmers reported nonagricultural work as the "principal occupation on days worked" off the farm. North of the Potomac and Ohio Rivers this proportion exceeded 90 percent.



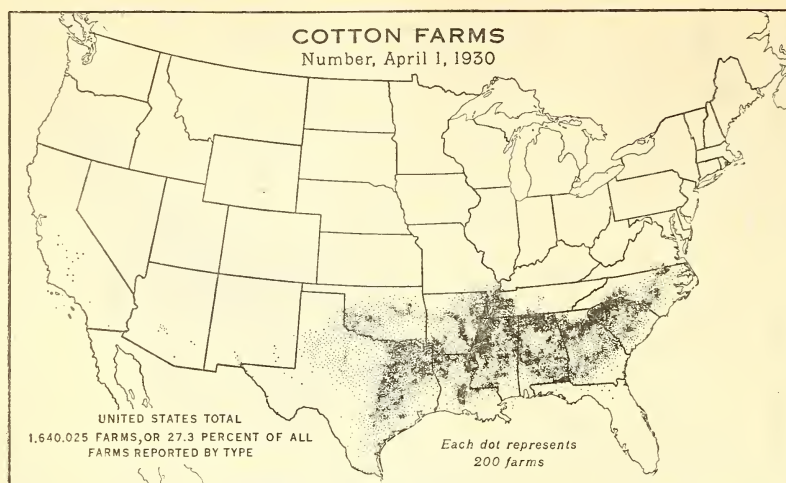
BAE 28247

FIGURE 58.—Self-sufficing farms, which are farms selling products of less value than those used by the farm family, are more numerous and concentrated than part-time farms in the southern Appalachian Mountains. A secondary center is found in the Boston Mountains of northwestern Arkansas. But there are many self-sufficing farms in other areas, particularly in the originally forested region of the Northeast, East, and South. Few self-sufficing farms are found on the prairies or in the Great Plains region, where the commercial production of grain and meat is characteristic.



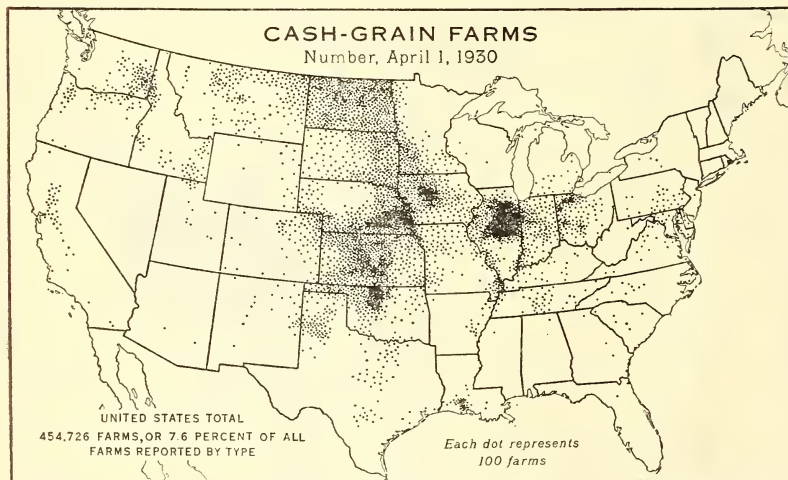
BAE 28251

FIGURE 59.—General farms are those from which sales of products exceed in value the products used on the farm, but in which no product constitutes more than 40 percent of the total value of all products. The zone of general farms surrounds the Corn Belt, except on the arid western margin and along the Wisconsin border, with outlying areas in central Kentucky and Tennessee, in the valley of eastern Tennessee and Virginia, in southeastern Pennsylvania and much of Maryland, in western New York, and in the Willamette Valley of western Oregon.



BAE 25492

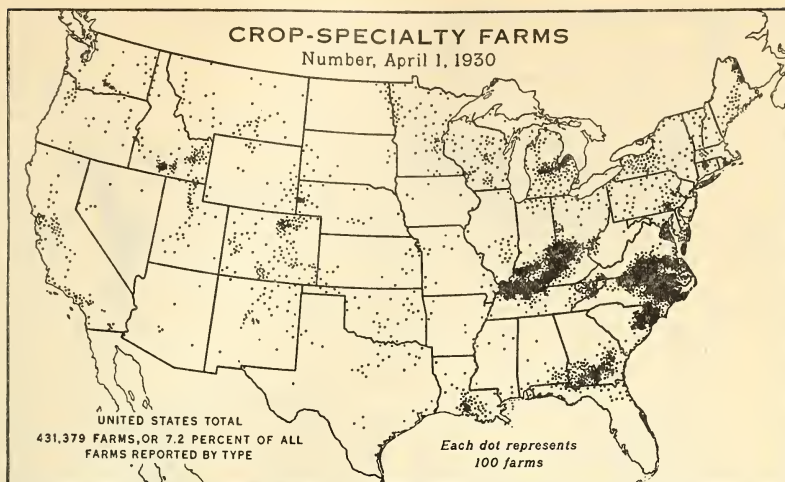
FIGURE 60.—Cotton farms (each tenant and cropper holding is classified as a farm) are most numerous in areas of fertile soils, in part because the limitation on acreage of cotton is the quantity that can be picked by the family before winter. The districts of greatest density of farms—the Black Prairie of Texas, the Yazoo delta of Mississippi, and adjoining bottom lands in Arkansas, and the limestone valleys of northern Alabama (all areas of fertile soil), and the upper piedmont of Georgia and the Carolinas—contain many plantations. Only about 26 percent of the cotton farms were operated by their owners in 1930.



BAE 28213

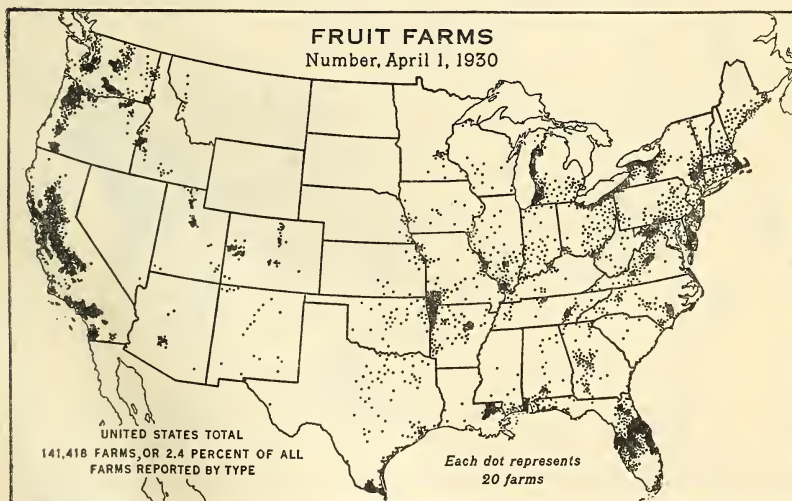
FIGURE 61.—Cash-grain farms, like cotton farms, are dominantly commercial, and some are as large as cotton plantations, but because of efficient machinery it is not necessary to divide them into tenant or cropper holdings. The cash-grain farms in Illinois and Iowa produce mostly corn and oats for sale; those in the Great Plains region, and in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho mostly wheat. Fully 95 percent of the cash-grain farms are in the originally grassland areas, where the soil is fertile and well adapted to grain, and where the land usually is level and large-scale machinery can be used.





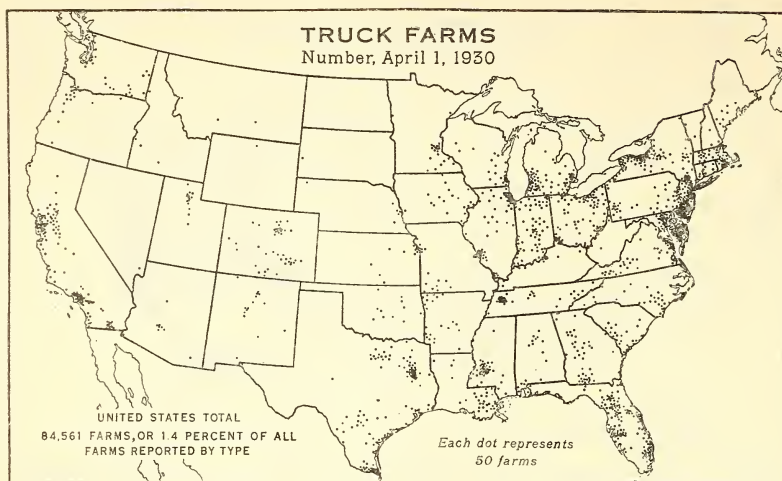
BAE 28255

FIGURE 62.—“Crop-specialty” is a term used to include farms that grow primarily tobacco, potatoes, beans, sugar beets, sugarcane, and other special crops. Tobacco requires much labor and the farms are small and numerous in Kentucky, southern Georgia, the Carolinas, and in southern Virginia, southern Maryland, Lancaster County, Pa., the Connecticut Valley from Greenfield south, and southern Wisconsin. In New England, New York, Wisconsin, and Minnesota the dots represent mostly potato farms, in Michigan and the far West mostly sugar-beet, potato, and dry-bean farms. In southern Louisiana the dots represent sugarcane plantations and holdings.



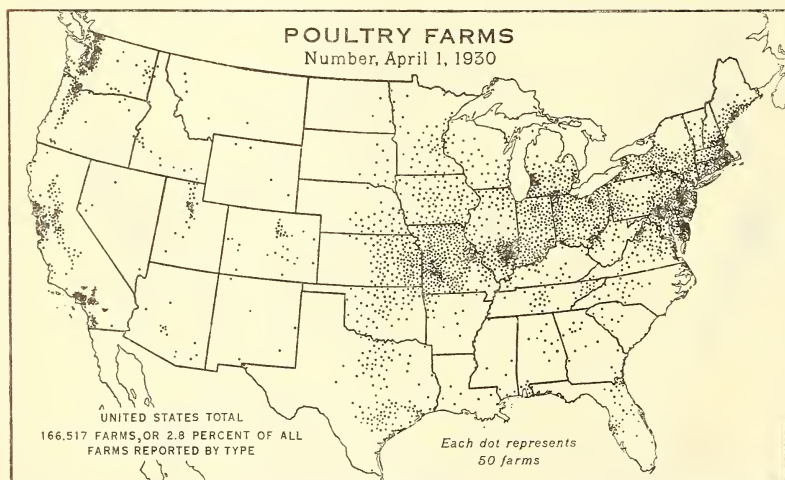
BAE 28211

FIGURE 63.—Fruit is grown where the winter temperatures are not too severe, and moisture is abundant, because of rainfall or irrigation. Practically no fruit, therefore, is grown in the Great Plains region, and only a little in the prairie region, because of the cold, dry winters. Protection from late frosts in spring is obtained by growing fruit along the lee shores of the Great Lakes and on hill slopes in mountain regions. In California, southern Arizona, the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas, and in the Florida Peninsula, the mild winter climate permits the production of citrus fruits.



BAE 28253

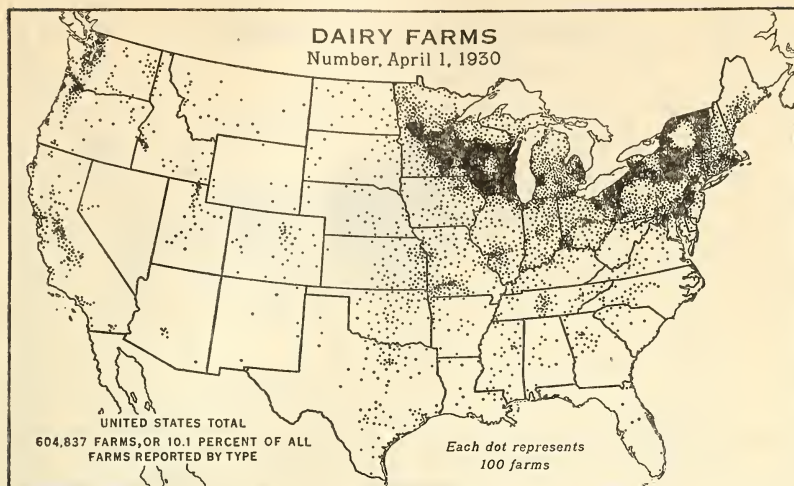
FIGURE 64.—Truck farms are principally of two kinds—market-gardening farms near the cities and truck farms more remote. There is concentration near the large cities from Washington to New York, and around Chicago, St. Louis, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. Truck farms may be divided into summer and winter types, those in the North provide vegetables during the summer and fall; those in California, Texas, and Florida, provide fresh vegetables during winter and spring. Some truck farms are very large, particularly in California; some are small; consequently the dots do not represent acreage nor production.



BAE 28250

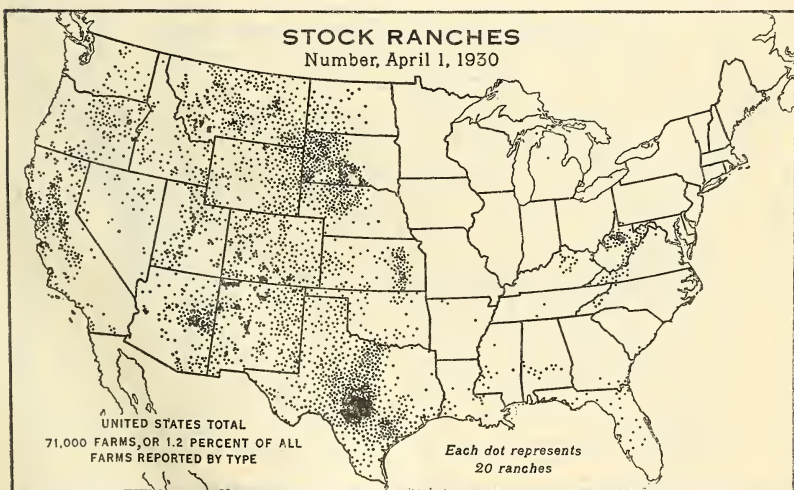
FIGURE 65.—The concentration of poultry farms north of the Potomac and Ohio Rivers and Arkansas, also on the Pacific coast, suggests close relationship to the large city markets. Nevertheless, millions of eggs are shipped from California to the Atlantic coast and arrive fresh enough to command the highest prices. Three broad areas may be noted—(1) the Atlantic Coast States, dominantly farms for the production of eggs from purchased feed for the nearby cities; (2) the Corn Belt margin, a combined egg and meat area; and (3) the Pacific coast valleys, primarily egg-producing areas.





BAE 28252

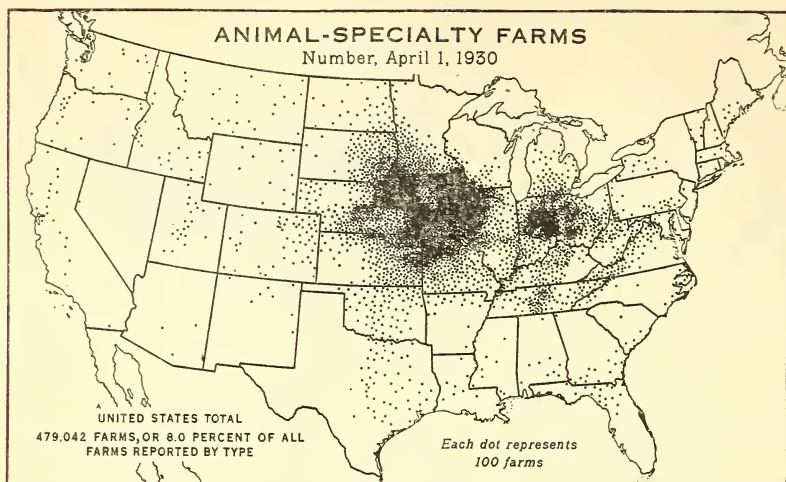
FIGURE 66.—Dairy farms, like poultry farms, are located mostly north of the Potomac and Ohio Rivers and Arkansas, also, like poultry farms, are relatively few in the prairie portions of the Corn Belt. The Dairy Belt, as clearly defined as the Corn Belt, extends from New England, southeastern Pennsylvania, and central Maryland across northeastern Ohio to Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. Climate and a large urban population are major factors in determining the location of the Dairy Belt. Outlying areas may be noted around Columbus, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Kansas City, in southwestern Missouri, and on the Pacific coast.



BAE 28255

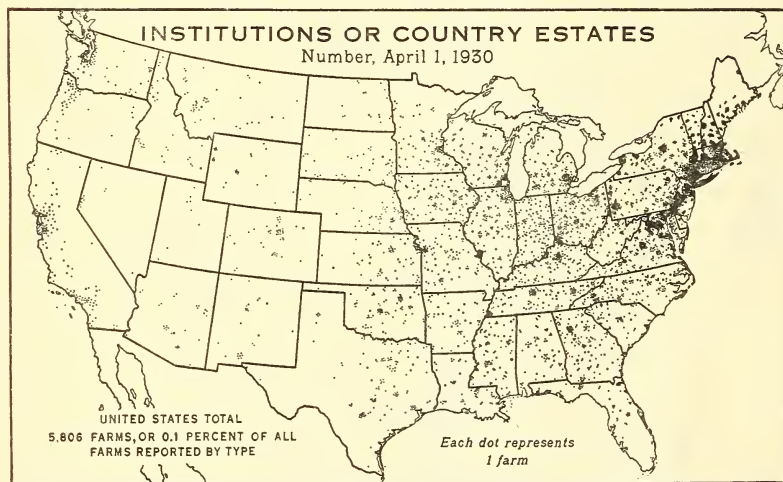
FIGURE 67.—Livestock ranches were separated from animal-specialty farms by the census on the ratio of pasture to crop acreage. In the eastern half of the Nation farms having more than 5 times as large acreage of pasture as of crops were classified as stock ranches, but in the western half 10 times as large acreage of pasture was required. The concentration in central Texas is on the Edwards Plateau, where cattle, sheep, and goats run on the same range. Some dots in the West are located in irrigated districts, where many ranchers live, but the range may be miles away.





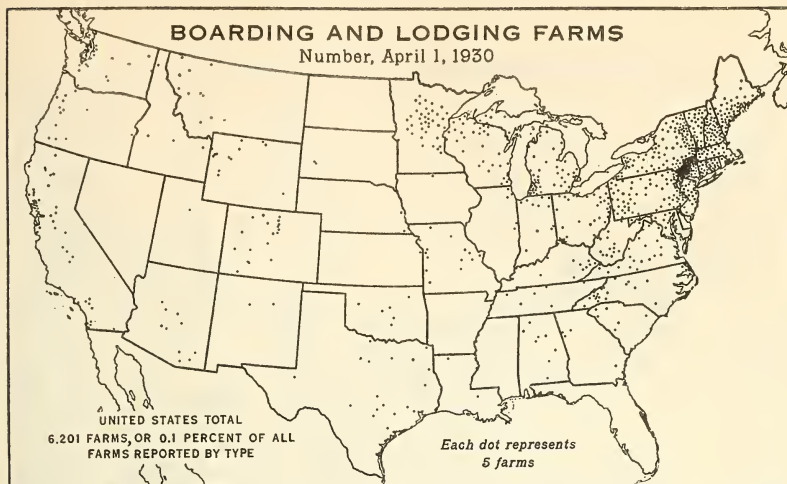
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FIGURE 68.—Animal-specialty farms are principally hog farms, beef-cattle farms, or corn-hog-and-cattle farms. They constitute the characteristic type of farm in most of the Corn Belt. The break in the Corn Belt in north-central Illinois is due to the practice of selling the corn in this district rather than feeding it. Some dominantly sheep farms are included in animal-specialty farms, principally in Ohio and Michigan. Animal-specialty farms are characterized by primary dependence on crops for feed rather than on pasturage, and corn is the dominant crop on most farms.



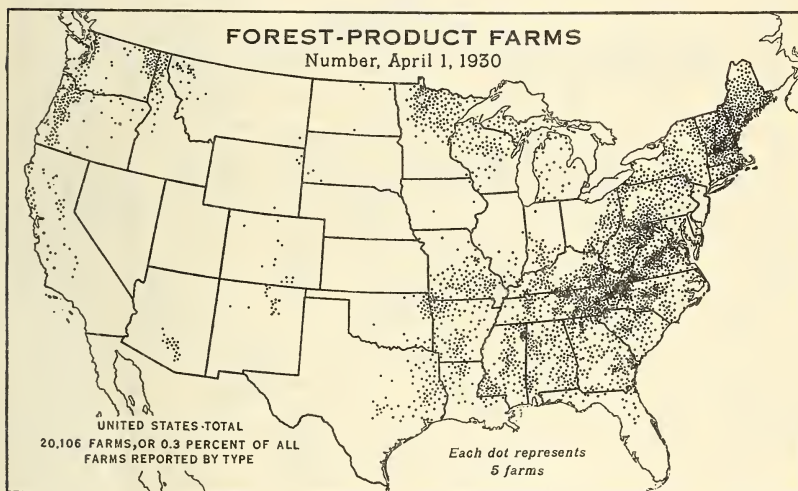
BAE 27202

FIGURE 69.—Institutions and country estates constitute a census subclass of abnormal farms. Institutions are mostly orphanages and schools, county poor farms, and State asylums. Country estates are farms of over 10 acres having residences valued at more than \$25,000. Such institutions and country estates tend to concentrate around the cities, even around some smaller cities. A belt of such farms extends from Boston to Washington, and westerly from Washington across the Piedmont of Virginia. A country-life tradition as well as wealth is apparently an important influence in the establishment of country estates.



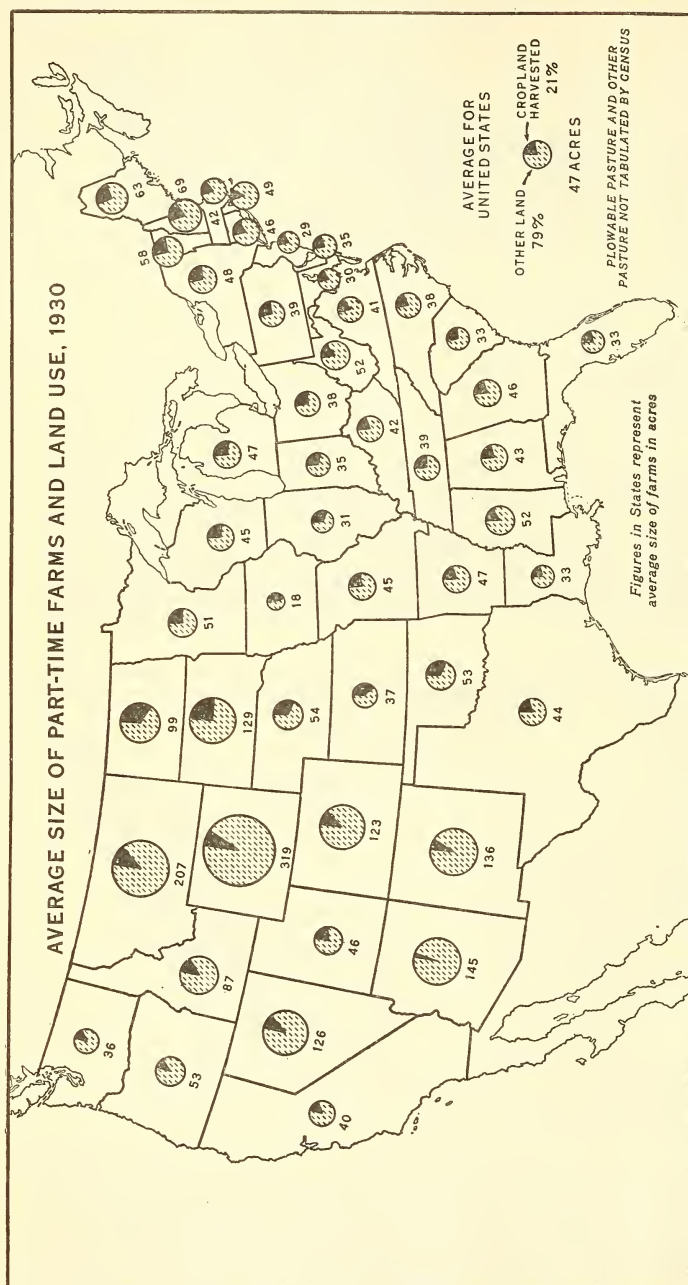
BAE 28416

FIGURE 70.—Boarding and lodging farms are those “where the receipts from boarders, lodgers, and campers represented 50 percent or more of the total value of all products and receipts of the farm.” Such farms are very numerous in the Catskill Mountains near New York City. There are a considerable number in other portions of New York State, in New England, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, with a sparse distribution extending down the Piedmont and the Appalachian Mountains to western North Carolina, in the Great Lakes States, in the Rocky Mountain region, and on the Pacific coast.



BAE 27206

FIGURE 71.—Forest-products farms are those “where the value of forest products sold represents 50 percent or more of the total value of all products of the farm.” These farms, like self-sufficing farms, are characteristic of the less-commercial agricultural portions of the originally forested regions, and are suggestive of hilly or poor land. These farms are most numerous in the southern Appalachian Mountains, notably the Blue Ridge, and in northern New England. A few are found in the South, in Pennsylvania, New York, and the upper Great Lakes region, also in the Pacific Northwest.



BAE 2363

FIGURE 72.—Part-time farms in the United States averaged 47 acres in area in 1929, of which only 10 acres were in crops harvested. In Iowa, where the land is rich, part-time farms averaged only 18 acres, but 8 acres were in crops; whereas in Wyoming where most of the land is arid and cheap, the average was 319 acres, of which 22 acres were in harvested crops. Apparently the average part-time farm produced products of about \$700 in value in 1929, of which about 20 percent was consumed by the family.



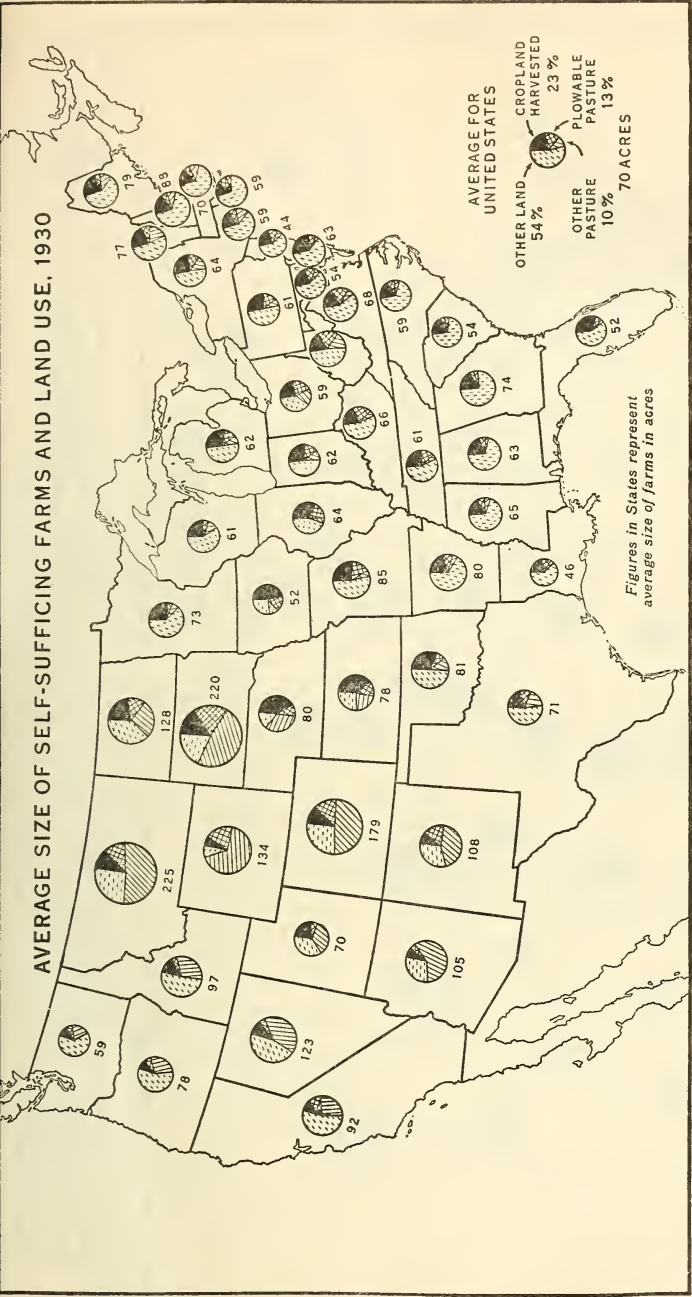
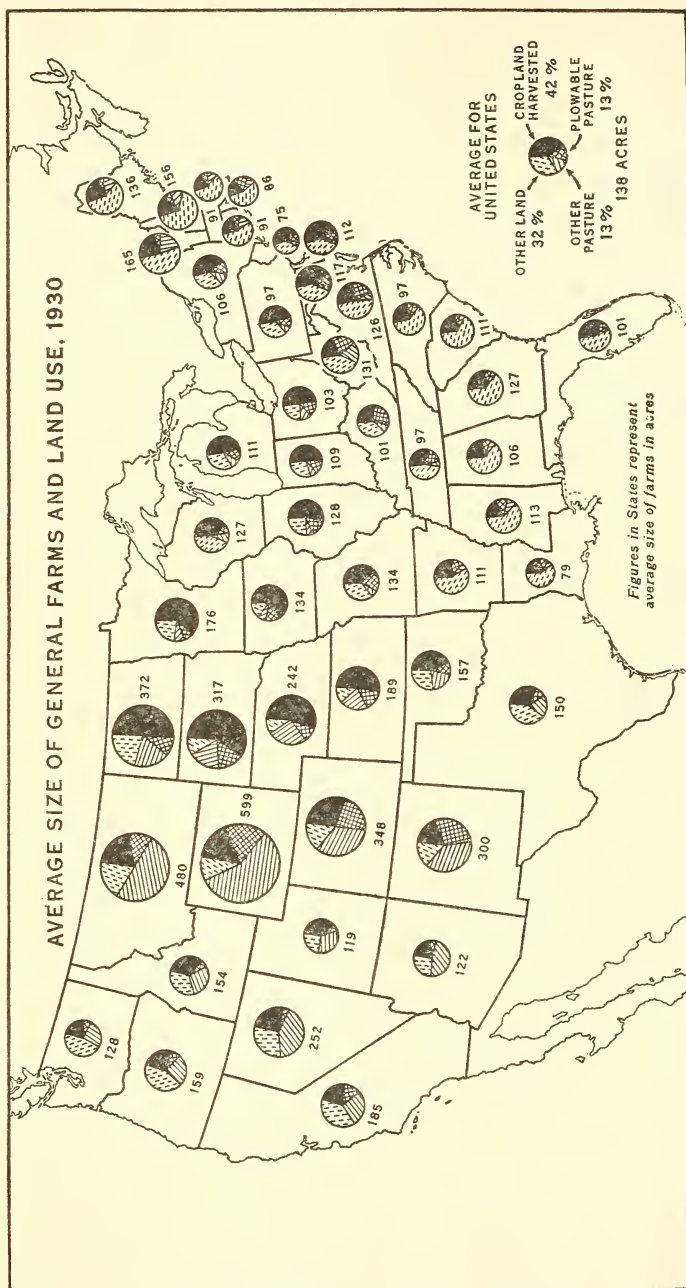


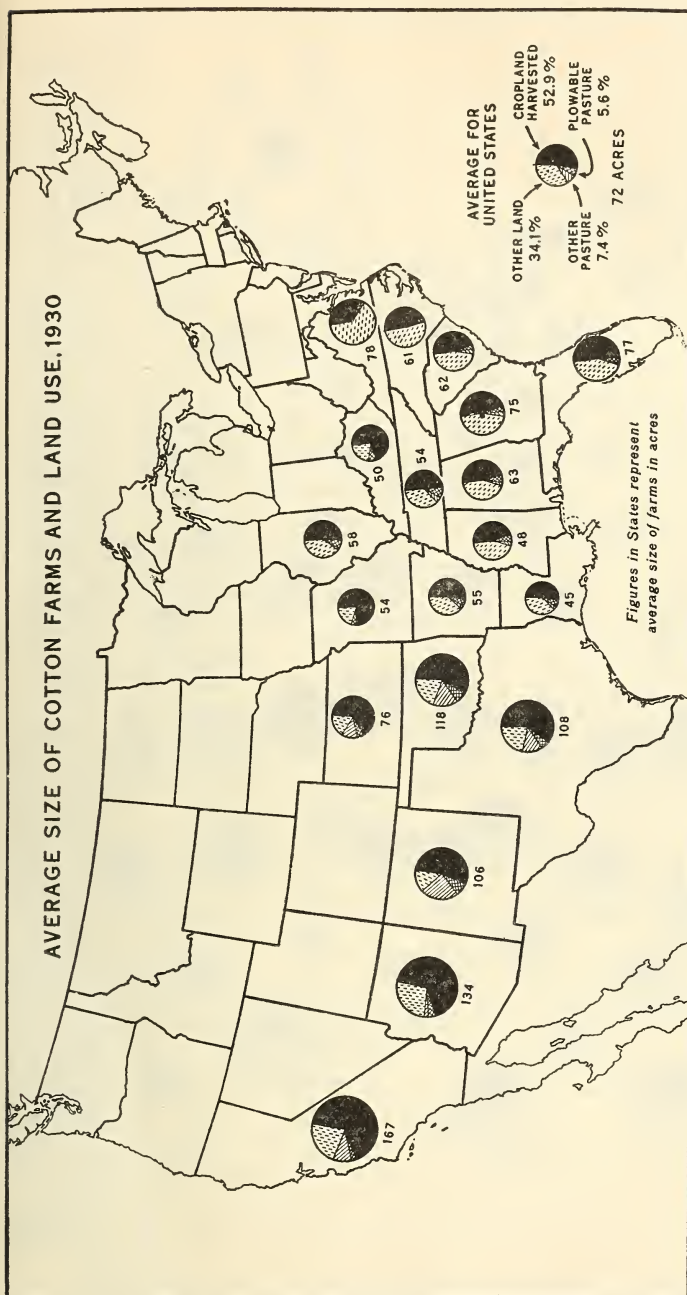
FIGURE 73.—Self-sufficing farms averaged 70 acres in the Nation as a whole in 1929, of which 16 acres were in crops harvested and 16 acres were in pasture (excluding woodland pasture). The range was from 44 acres in New Jersey, including 10 acres of crops and 8 acres of pasture, to 225 acres in Montana, of which 23 acres were in crops harvested, and 144 acres were pasture, mostly arid grazing. In Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina, the average value of products per farm was over \$400, of which nearly \$300 worth were consumed by the family.

BAE 23964



BAE 29355

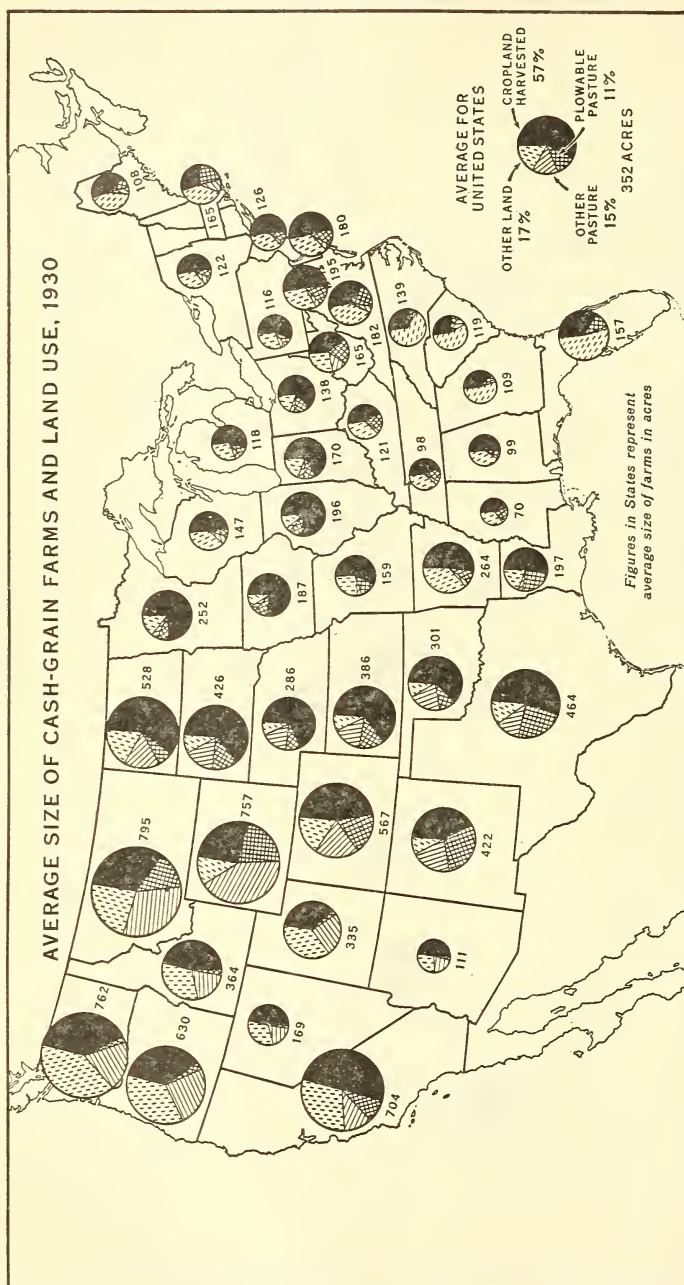
FIGURE 74.—General farms averaged 138 acres in the Nation as a whole in 1929, of which 58 acres were in harvested crops and 36 acres were in pasture (excluding woodland pasture). One-sixth of all farms were general farms, and nearly three-fourths were operated by owners. In Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan, where about one-fourth of all general farms are located, these farms averaged about 100 acres in size, half of which were in crops; and the gross value of products averaged \$1,600, of which \$300 worth was consumed on the farm.



BAE 29532

**FIGURE 75.**—In the eastern Cotton Belt States the cotton farms average 45 to 75 acres in area. About half of this was in crops, including 15 acres of cotton, while less than one-tenth was in pasture. The average value of products was about \$900, of which one-fifth was consumed on the farm. In Texas and Oklahoma the cotton farms average 110 acres in area. Three-fifths of the land was in crops, including 40 acres in cotton, while one-fifth was in pasture. The value of products averaged nearly \$1,300, of which one-sixth was consumed on the farm.





BAE 2956

Figure 76.—In the eastern half of the Nation cash-grain farms average 171 acres in size, in the western half 404 acres, with an average gross value of products of \$2,526 in the eastern half and \$3,064 in the western. In both sections from one-fourth to three-fourths of the farm land is in harvested crops, varying with the State. The average is about three-fifths. Slightly less than half the cash-grain farms are operated by their owners, as compared with one-fourth of the cotton farms and three-fourths of the general farms.

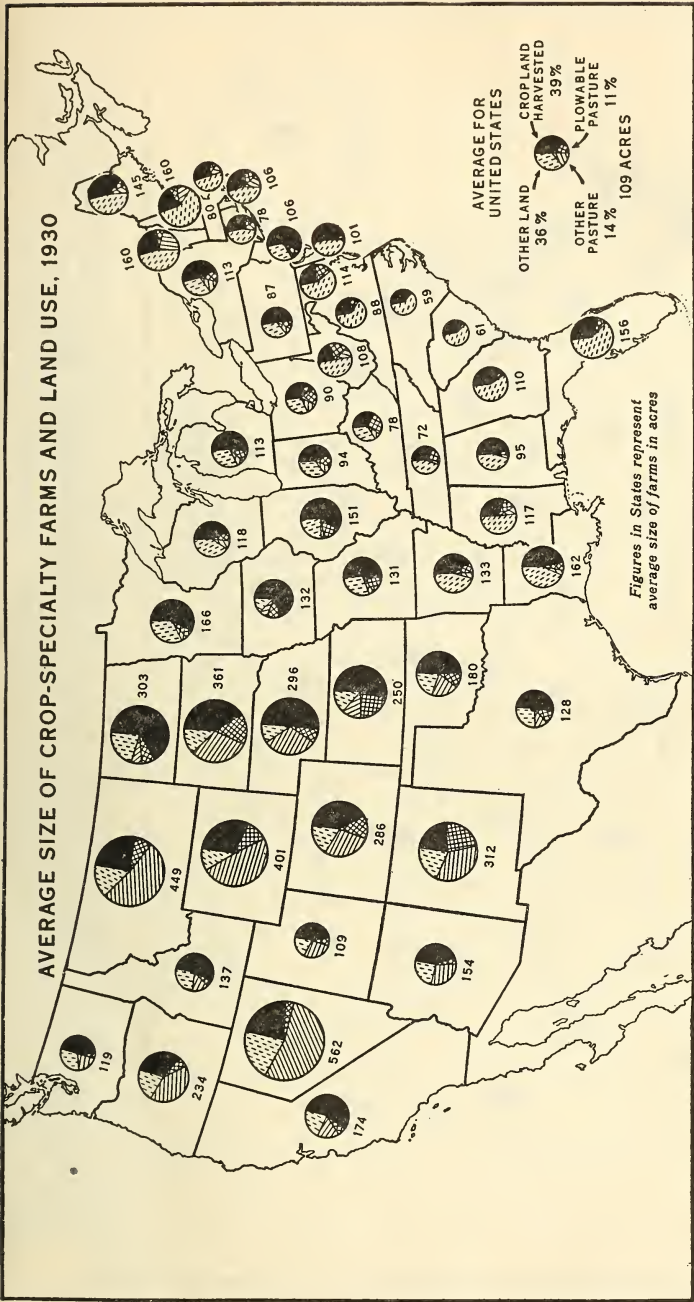


FIGURE 77.—The average acreage of crop-specialty farms varies widely with the crop and the State. Tobacco farms appear to range generally from 60 acres in the Carolinas to 90 acres in Wisconsin, of which only 10 acres may be in tobacco; potato farms from 80 acres in Pennsylvania to 140 acres in Maine, of which 20 to 80 acres may be in potatoes; sugar-beet farms from 100 to 500 acres, with a variable acreage in beets. Bean farms vary greatly in acreage, some in California being very large. About half the crop-specialty farms are operated by their owners.

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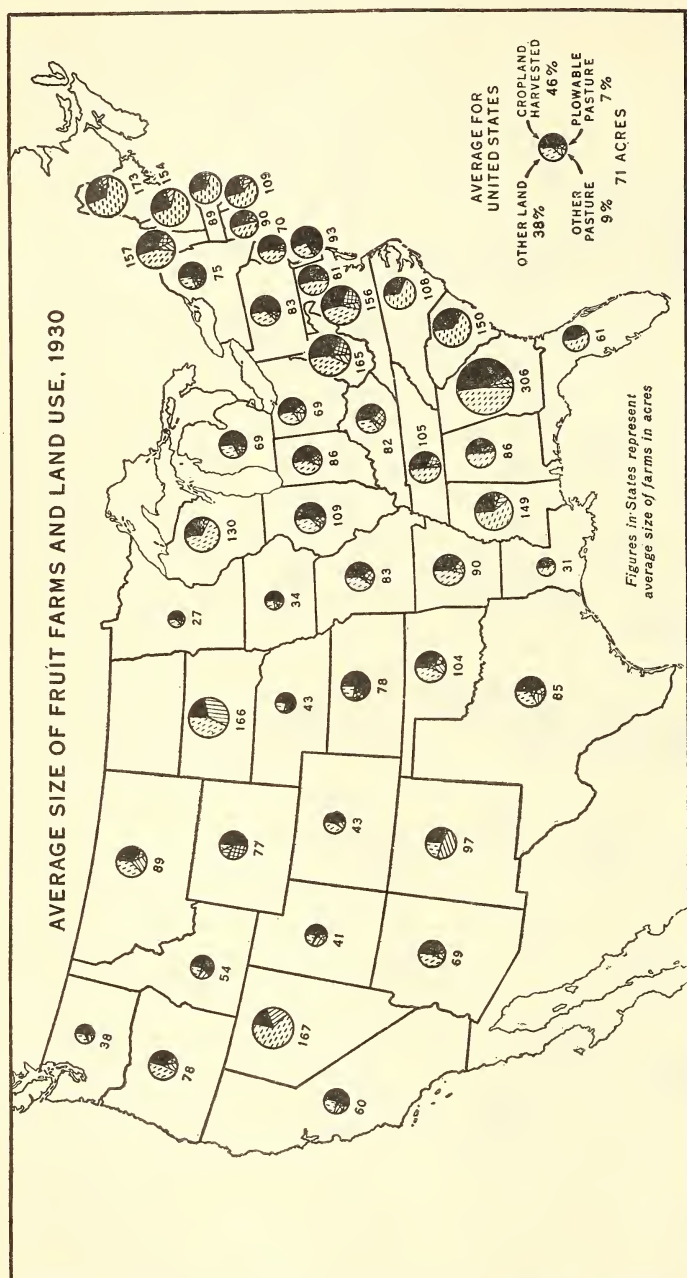


FIGURE 78.—Fruit farms generally average small in area but large in value. In California, Michigan, and Florida they averaged 60 to 70 acres in 1929, about half of which was in crops, mostly fruit, and the average gross value of products was \$4,192, \$2,390, and \$2,286, respectively. In New York, Virginia, Georgia, Missouri, and Oregon the farms are larger, but the value of products averaged \$2,850, \$4,442, \$4,428, \$1,734, and \$3,034 respectively. In Washington the farms are smaller in area, but value of products averaged \$4,693. Nearly 90 percent of the fruit farms are operated by owners or managers.



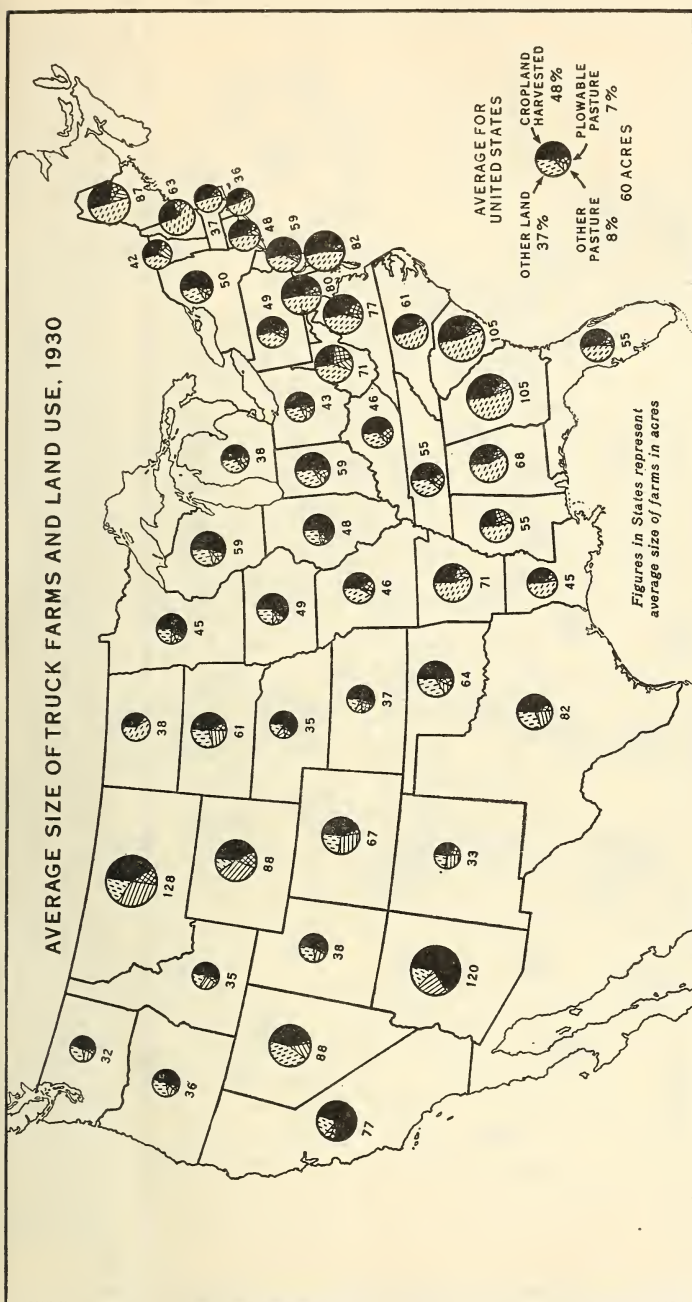


FIGURE 79.—Truck farms average even smaller in area than fruit farms, but about the same proportion of the land is in crops and in pasture. In the Chesapeake Bay section and in California truck farms averaged about 80 acres, and the average value of products in 1929 was \$2,500 and \$9,000, respectively. In New Jersey, New York, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Florida truck farms averaged from 48 to 59 acres in area, and average value of products ranged from \$1,636 to \$3,663. About two-thirds of all truck farms are operated by owners or managers.

BAE 29359

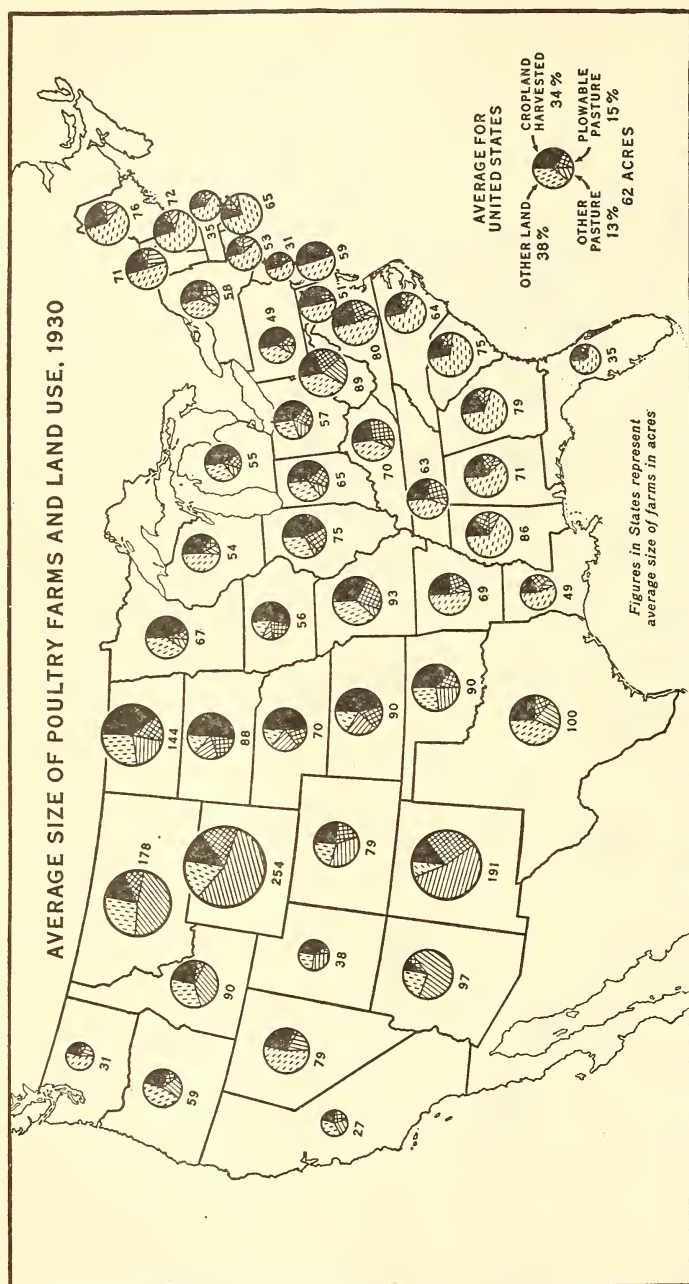


FIGURE 80.—Poultry farms constitute one of the most highly commercial types of agriculture; they are frequently little more than manufacturing plants. Measured by area most poultry farms are small, particularly the highly commercial farms in California, Washington, New Jersey, and Massachusetts. But measured by gross value of products (\$3,619, \$2,702, \$3,071, \$3,025, respectively, in those four States) and by expenditures for feed (\$1,902, \$1,349, \$1,546, and \$1,511, respectively) poultry farms are above average in size. Some are very large and many are small. Nearly 90 percent of all poultry farms are operated by their owners.

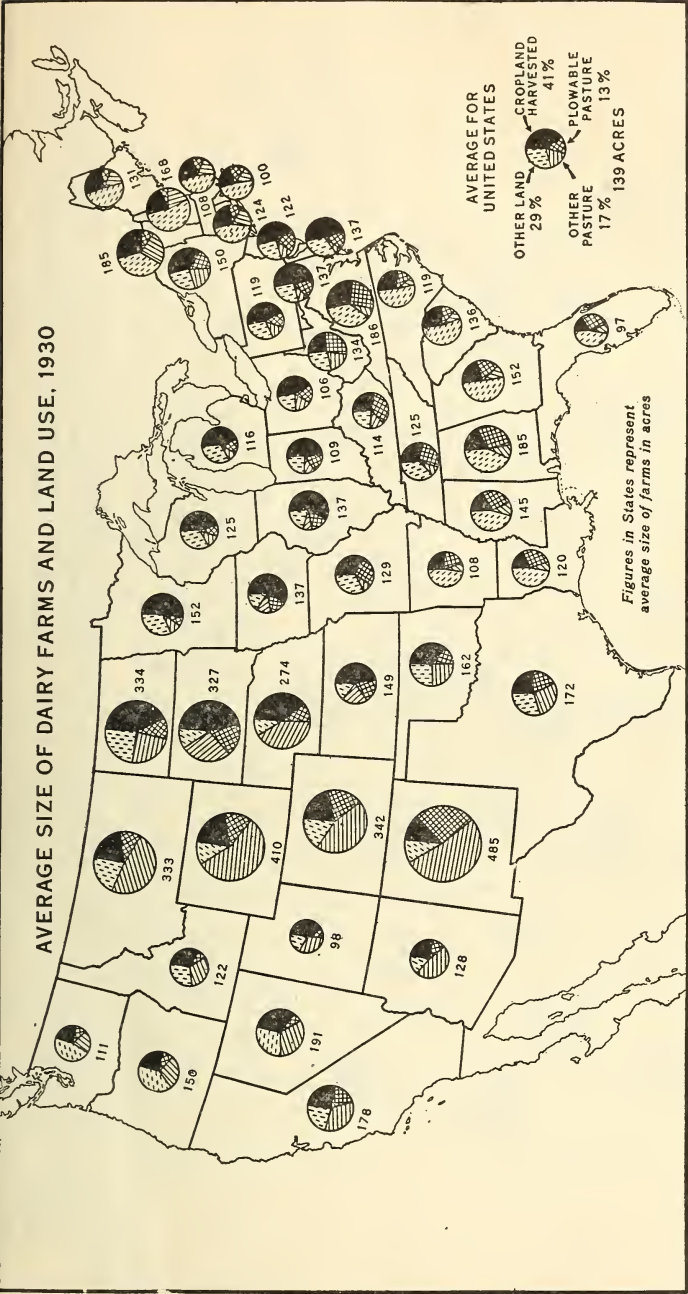
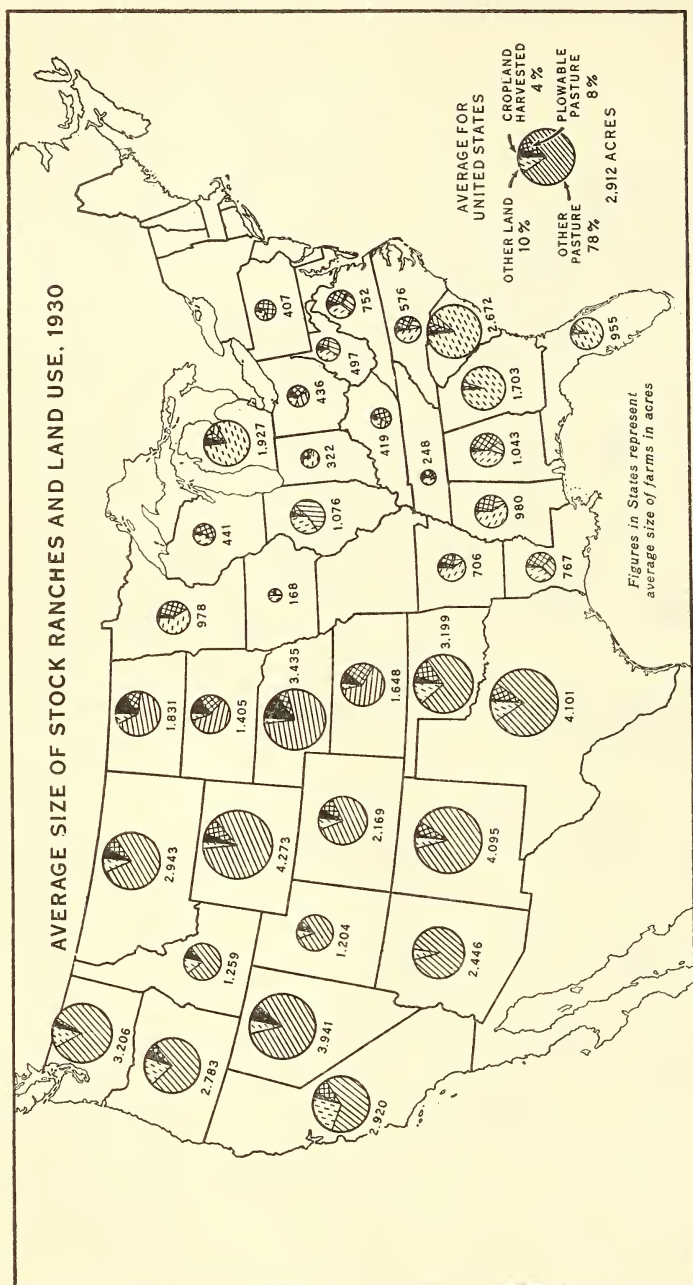


FIGURE 81.—Dairy farms generally average from 100 to 150 acres in area in the eastern Great Lakes, Corn Belt, and Pacific States, but in the northern Great Plains and Rocky Mountain States, where the proportion of the farm land in crops generally is smaller and the acre yield lower, dairy farms average 300 to 500 acres. The value of products per farm in 1929 averaged about \$2,700 in the Dairy Belt, ranging from \$1,900 in Michigan to over \$6,000 in New Jersey. Over three-fourths of all dairy farms were operated by owners in that year.





BAE 29861

FIGURE 82.—The average area of stock ranches ranged from 250 acres in Tennessee and 168 acres in Iowa to over 4,000 acres in Texas, New Mexico, and Wyoming in 1929. Some stock ranches in the far West exceeded 100,000 acres, nearly all arid range. In the Nation as a whole, only 4 percent of the land in stock ranches is in crops and 8 percent in plowable pasture. Value of products per farm averaged \$7,524 in Texas, \$3,819 in South Dakota, and \$10,509 in California. Six out of seven stock ranches were operated by owners or managers.

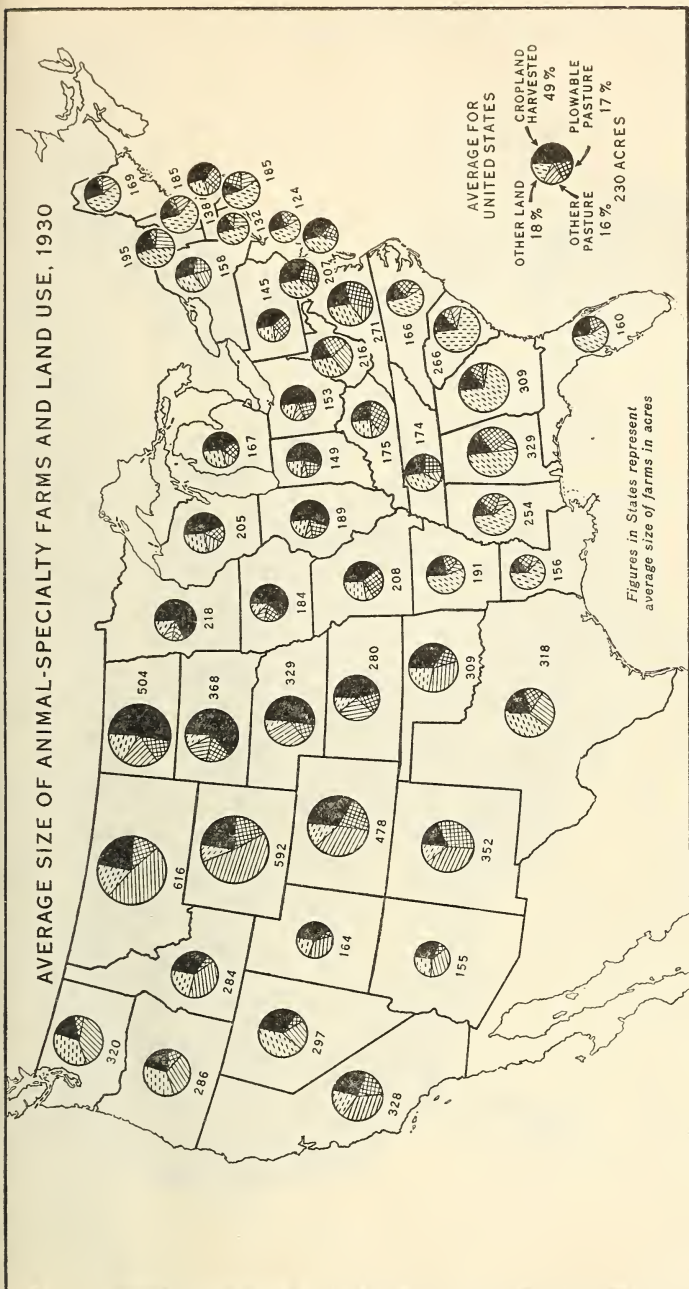
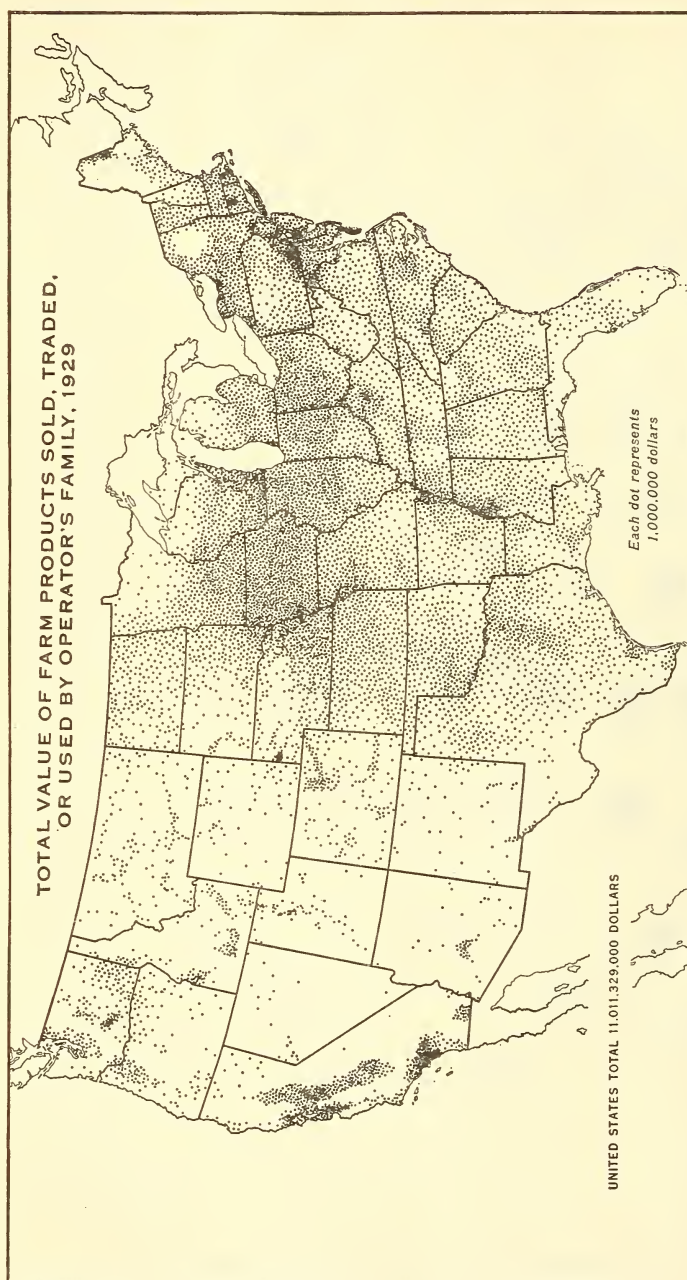


FIGURE 83.—Animal-specialty farms, like dairy farms, are larger in the northern Great Plains and Rocky Mountain States, where crop yields are often low. In the Corn Belt the acreage per farm ranges from 150 to 330 acres, with a little over, half in crops and about one-fourth in pasture. The average value of products per farm in 1929 was \$3,048 in Indiana \$4,174 in Iowa, and \$4,544 in Nebraska. About two-thirds of all animal-specialty farms were operated by their owners in 1929. Hogs are better adapted to tenant farming than cattle.



BAE 29176

FIGURE 84.—In 1929, a year of nearly normal crop yields in most parts of the United States, and of fairly good prices for most farm products, the highest agricultural production per square mile occurred in southeastern Pennsylvania and southern California. The Corn Belt stands out as the most extensive contiguous region of high production per square mile, particularly the western Ohio, western Iowa, and eastern Nebraska portions. The Dairy Belt has many dense areas, notably southeastern Wisconsin, and western New York. In the Cotton Belt, the Yazoo delta and bottom land northward in Arkansas, also the Black Prairie of Texas and the district around Raleigh, N. C., show high productivity. In the West the irrigated valleys can be recognized, notably those of California.



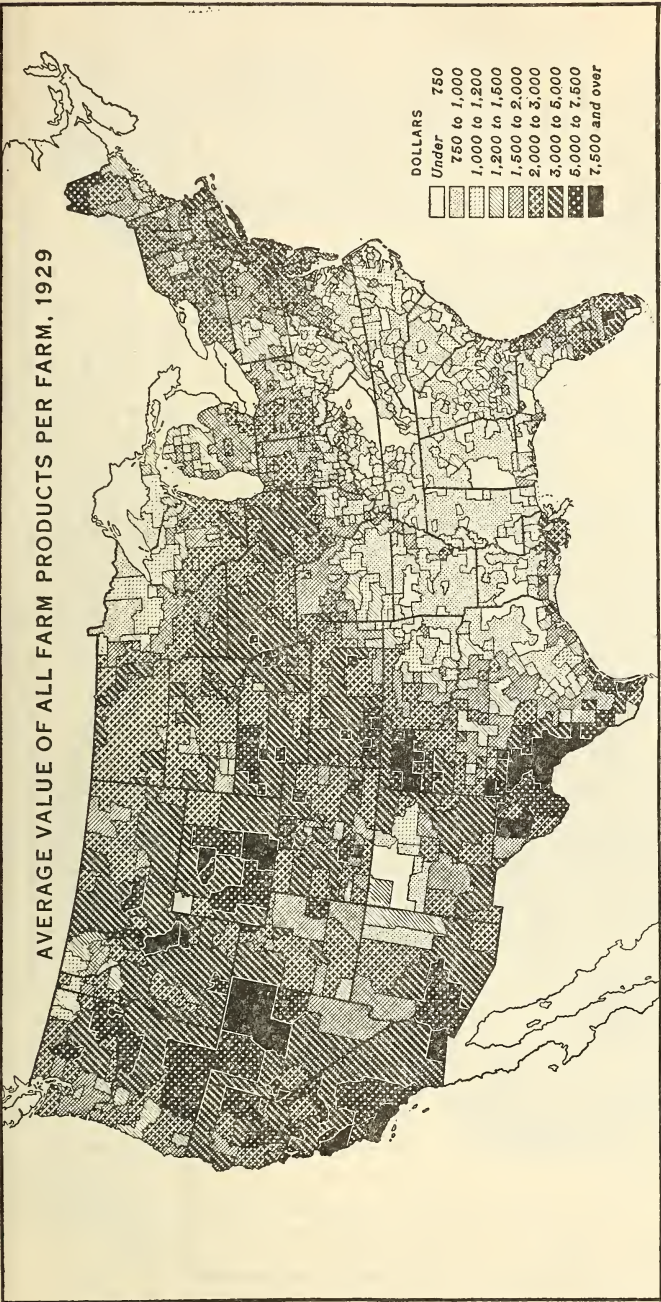
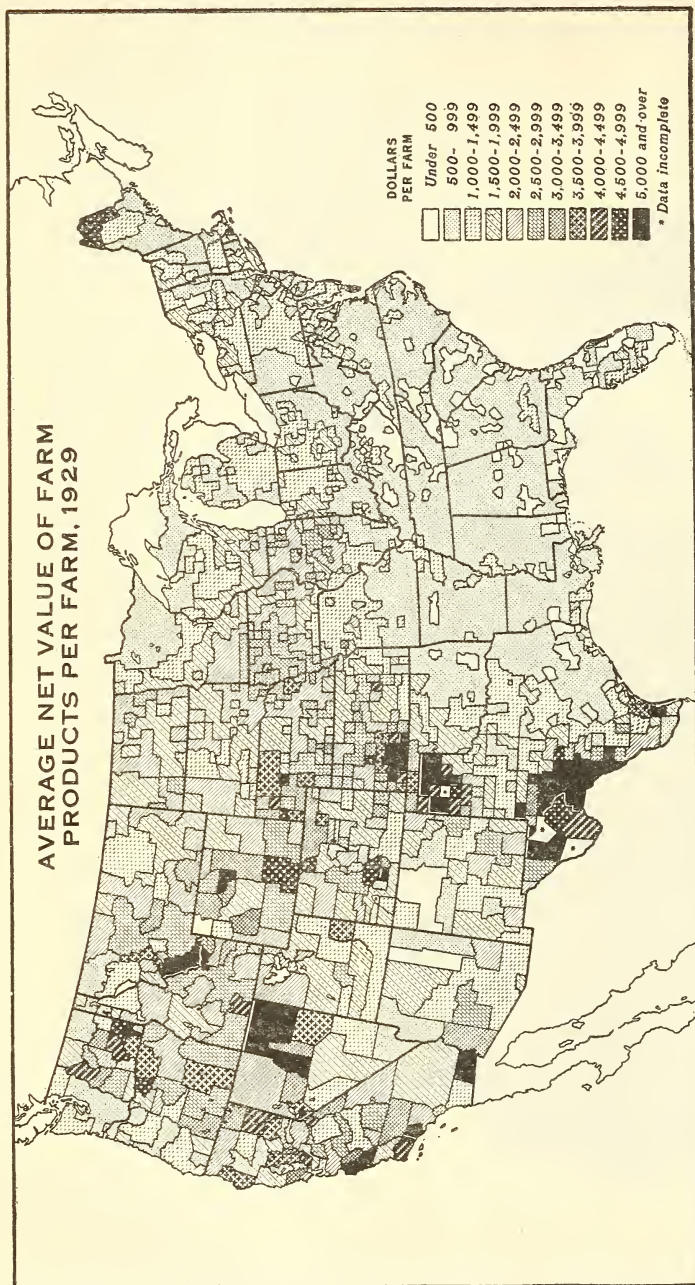


FIGURE 85.—The year 1929 was rather free from drought and other abnormal weather conditions, and prices for most farm products were fair. Yet the average value of farm products per farm varied from less than \$750 in the mountains of eastern Kentucky to more than \$7,500 in several cattle-ranching counties of the West. In the South, excluding western Texas, western Oklahoma, much of Florida and southern Louisiana, in southern Indiana and Illinois, in the Ozarks of Missouri, and in the upper Great Lakes region, the average value seldom exceeded \$1,500, and was mostly below \$1,000. In most of the North it exceeded \$2,000. In many counties of the Corn Belt and west to the Pacific coast it exceeded \$3,000.

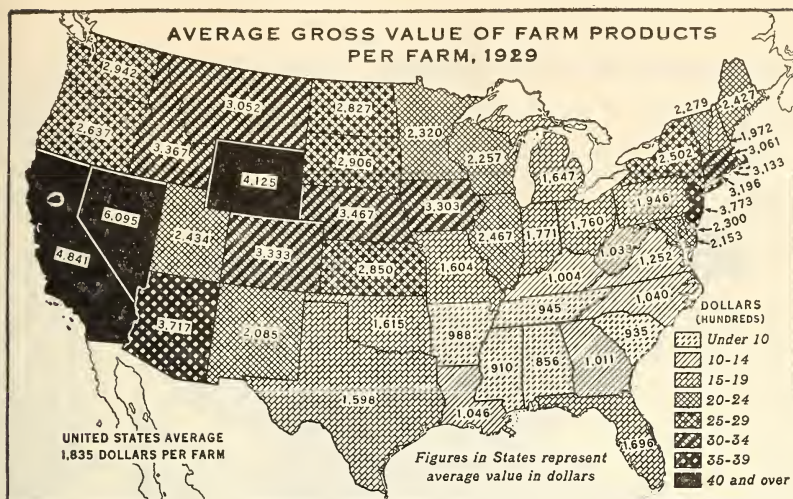
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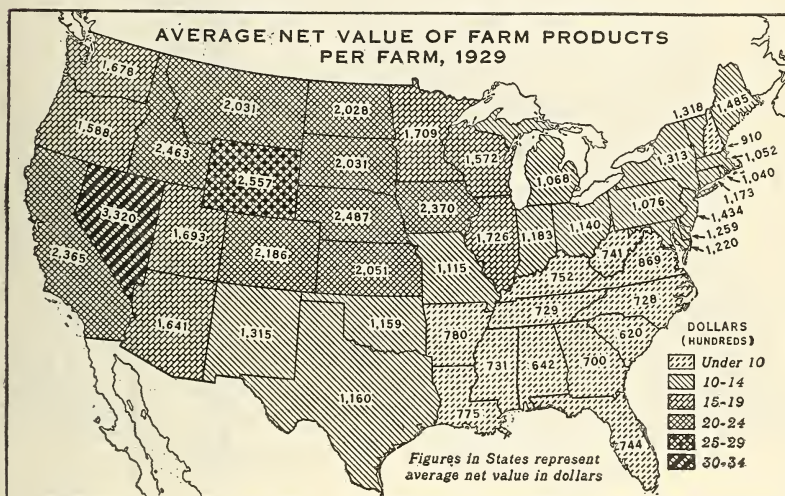
FIGURE 86.—Average "net" value of farm products is an approximate figure derived by subtracting from the gross value the expenditures for feed, fertilizer, labor (cash only), electric power, taxes, and 5 percent of the value of machinery and livestock. These constitute usually about 60 percent of all farm expenses. In some counties in 1929 the "net" value was tenfold that in other counties. In most of the South, including a projection north on the Allegheny Plateau to Lake Erie, also in the upper Great Lakes region, this average value was under \$1,000. In the Corn Belt it ranged from \$1,000 in the eastern originally forested portion to more than \$3,000 in much of northwestern Iowa. In many livestock ranching and some grain and trucking counties of the West it exceeded \$4,000. Conditions in Aroostook County, Maine, were abnormal in 1929.





BAE 29366

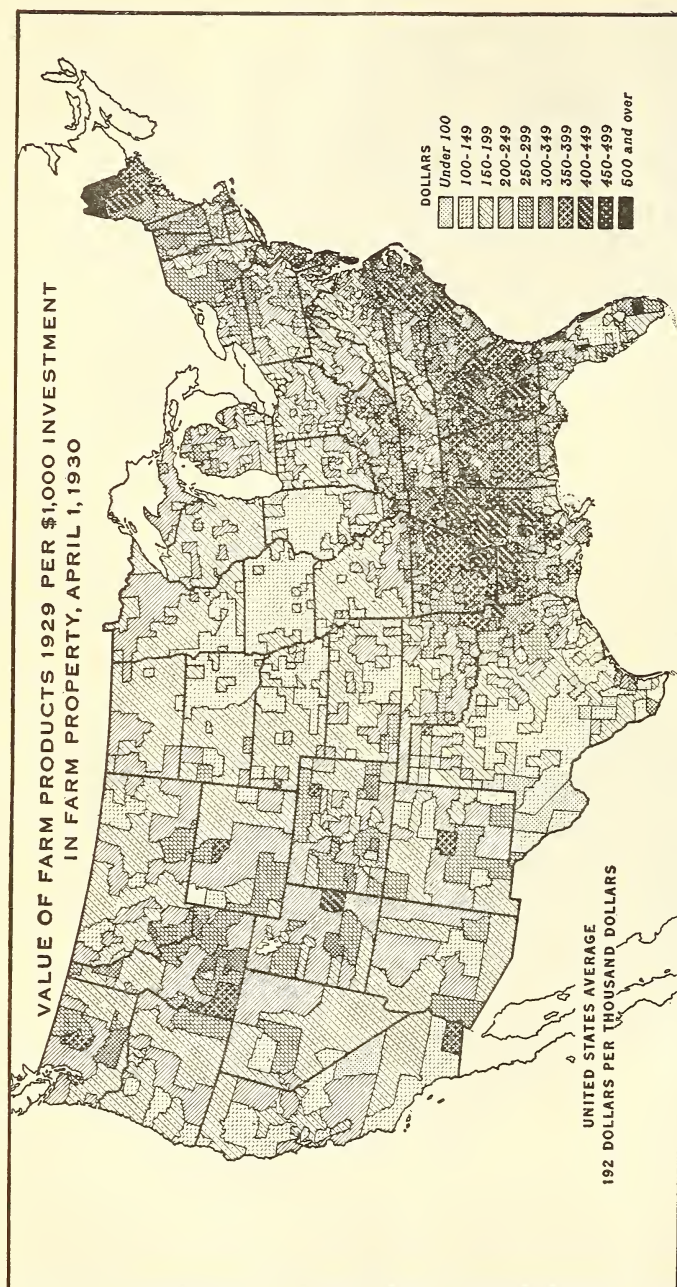
FIGURE 87.—The gross value of farm products per farm averaged highest in 1929 in the Western States, especially Nevada and Wyoming, which contain large livestock ranches, and California, with its many large fruit, truck, bean, dairy, and livestock farms. By contrast, every State south of the Potomac and Ohio Rivers, excluding Florida but including Louisiana and Arkansas, averaged less than \$1,300 per farm. This low average is partly due to the small cropper and tenant holdings in cotton plantations, partly to the small farms in the mountains and Coastal Plain, partly to low crop yields.



BAE 29367

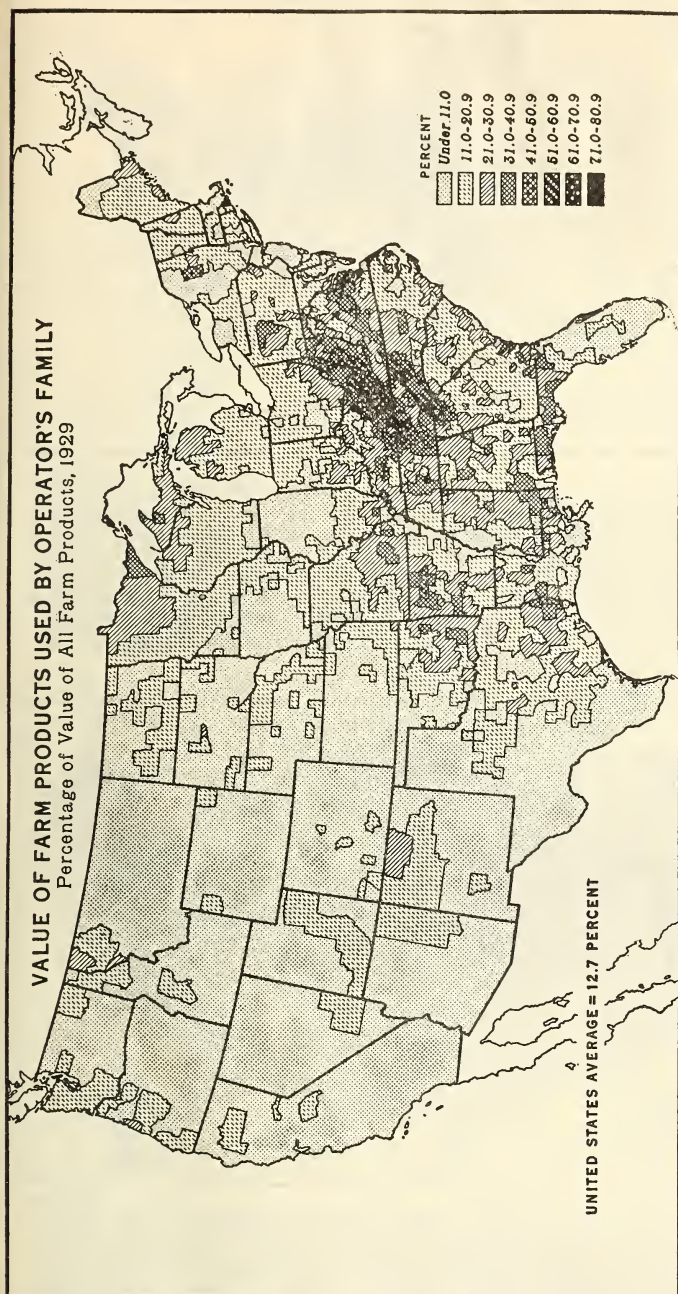
FIGURE 88.—The net value of farm products per farm was highest in Wyoming and Nevada in 1929. California farmers hire much labor, the number of farm laborers exceeding that of farm operators. In the South the average net value ranged from \$600 to \$800, except in Virginia, Texas, and Oklahoma. Other farm expenditures, not available in the census, would probably lower this figure by fully \$100. From \$500 to \$700, plus a cheap two- to four-room house, measured the standard of living of the average southern farmer in that quite prosperous year. Most families lived on less.





BAE 28476

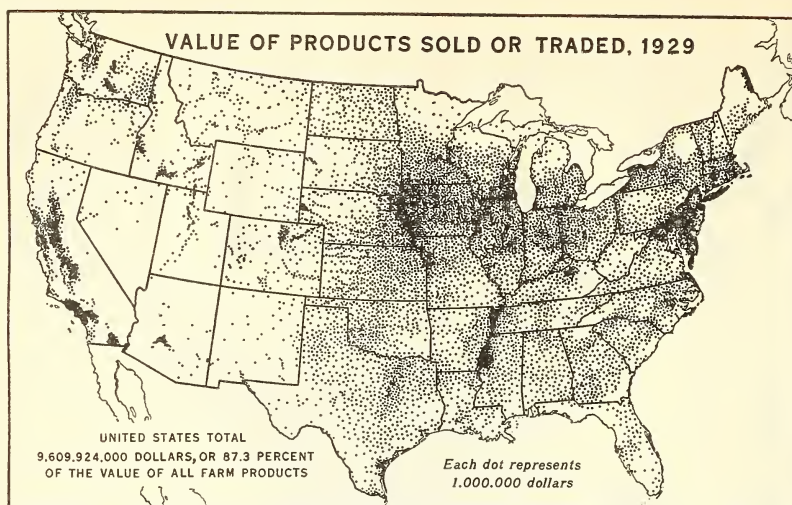
FIGURE 89.—The highest ratio of value of farm products to value of farm property is in the eastern and central Cotton Belt, where labor, and in the eastern portion fertilizer also, constitute much of the cost of production. The lowest ratios are in the richest portions of the Corn Belt, and in the fruit-growing districts of California and Florida. It appears that persons having little capital can obtain a larger value of products in return for their labor and capital by investing in the poor, cheap lands of the Appalachians, the Ozarks, and the upper Great Lakes region than in the more valuable lands of the Corn Belt and southern Dairy Belt. Persons seeking investment only, however, are likely to buy the more valuable land.



BAE 2752

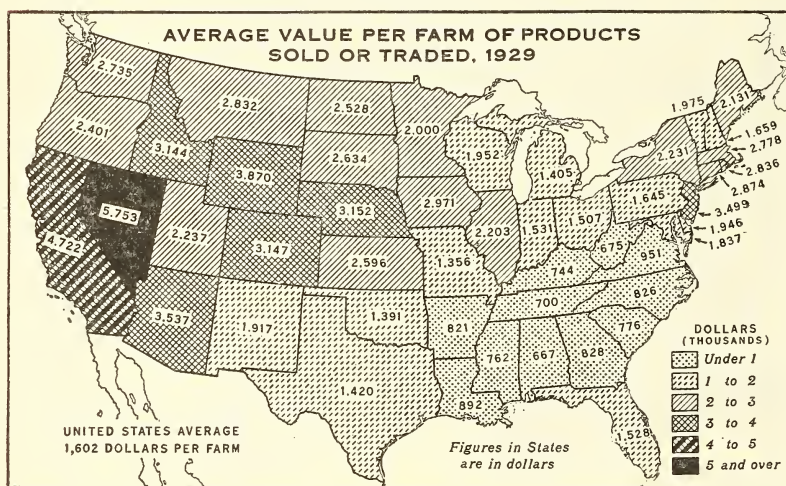
Figure 90.—Commercial agriculture is now characteristic of practically all parts of the United States, except the southern Appalachians. In several counties of eastern Kentucky only one-fourth of the farm products, measured by value, were sold in 1929—doubtless this was true of most of the Nation a century ago. On the other hand, in the original grassland region, which includes most of the country from central Illinois to the Pacific coast, in which the farms tend to be large, and in New Jersey and much of New York, over 90 percent of the farm products were sold in 1929 in most of the counties. These figures are heavily weighted by the larger farms, which sell nearly all their products.





BAE 28222

FIGURE 91.—About one-fourth of the States—New York and Pennsylvania to Nebraska and Kansas, inclusive, plus Wisconsin, Minnesota, and California—produced half the value of farm products in 1929. Nearly one-fourth of the sales of farm products in the Nation were reported from the Corn Belt, nearly one-fifth from the Dairy Belt, another one-fifth from the Cotton Belt, nearly one-tenth from the Corn and Winter Wheat Belt, another one-tenth from the two wheat regions, one-seventh from the four regions in the far West, and one-fortieth from the Humid Sub-tropical Crops and Atlantic Trucking Belts.



BAE 29207

FIGURE 92.—The variation among the States in average sales of products per farm is very wide, ranging in 1929 from \$667 in Alabama, with its many small cotton cropper farms, to \$5,753 in Nevada, where there are large livestock ranches. South of the Potomac and Ohio Rivers sales averaged less than \$1,000 in every State, excluding Florida but including Louisiana and Arkansas; while to the north and west they averaged over \$1,000 in every State. In New Jersey, New York, and most of New England, and from Illinois and Iowa westerly, the average sales exceeded \$2,000 per farm.



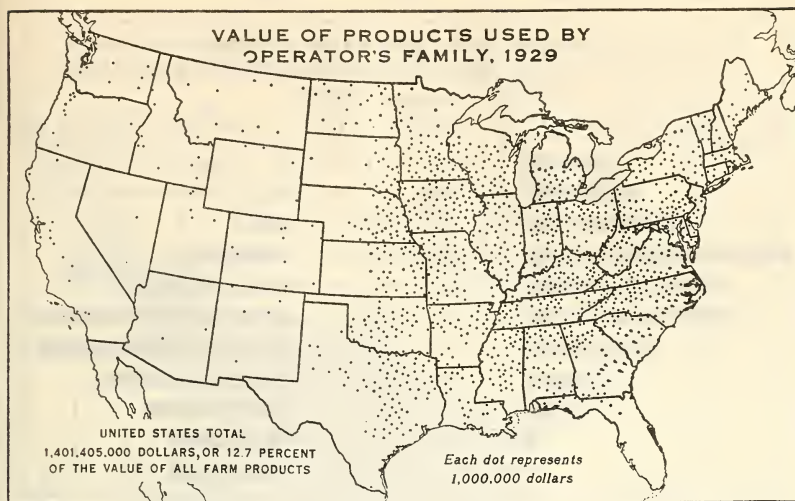


FIGURE 93.—Compared with commercial production, the value of farm products used by the farm families is rather evenly distributed over the humid and subhumid portions of the United States, and varies, more or less, with number of farms (fig. 1). Commercial as well as noncommercial farmers produce foods for home use, the principal difference being not in the production for home use but in the commercial production. The commercial farmer is, in general, a partially self-sufficing farmer plus a commercial farmer.

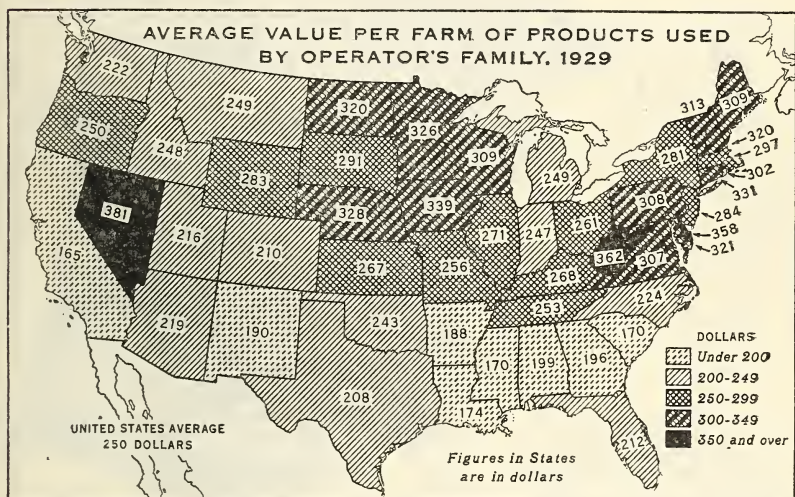
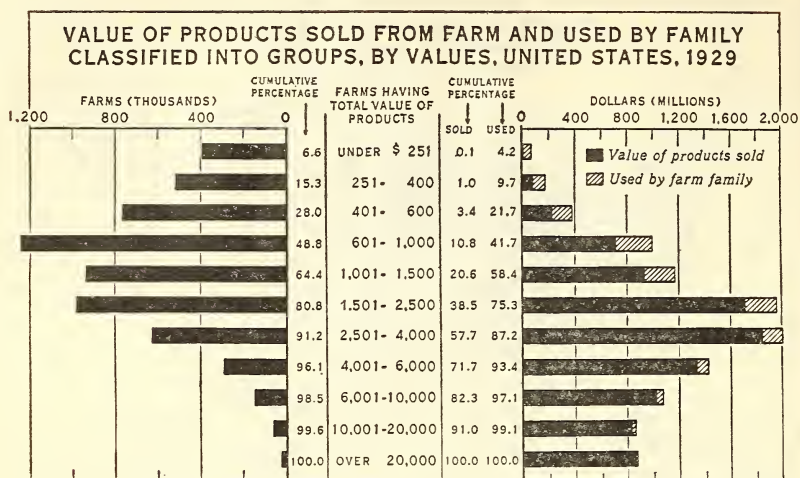
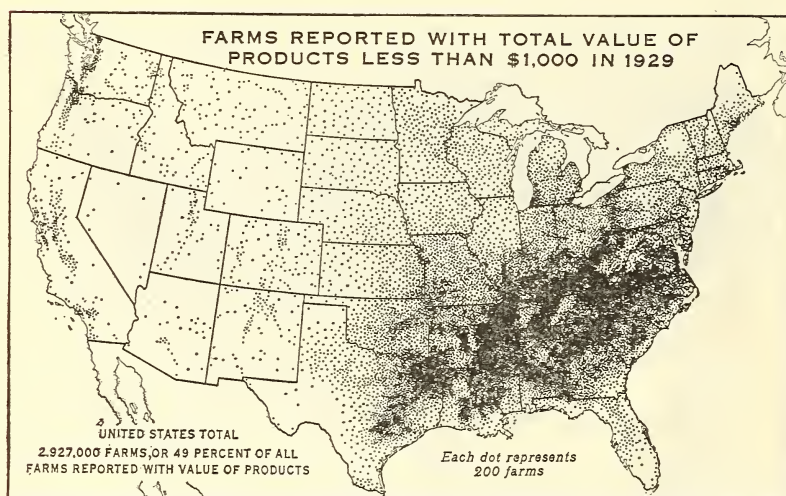


FIGURE 94.—The highest average value per farm in 1929 of home-produced foods used by the farm family was in West Virginia, where half the farms are self-sufficing or part-time farms, and in Nevada, a State of highly commercial agriculture. The lowest average values are found in the Cotton Belt States and in California. The commercial farmers of the central West produce about as much food for home use as do the self-sufficing farmers of the southern Appalachians, and much more than the farmers, including croppers, of the Cotton Belt.



BAE 27495

FIGURE 95.—In 1929 over one-fourth of the farms in the Nation produced less than \$600 worth of products, including the products of the farm used by the family. But this one-fourth contributed less than 4 percent of the farm products sold or traded. Nearly half of the farms produced less than \$1,000 worth of products, but this least-productive half contributed only about 11 percent of the commercial production of the Nation. The more productive half of the farms could, undoubtedly, after a few years produce this 11 percent, if prices afforded encouragement.



BAE 27330

FIGURE 96.—Over two-thirds of all the farms that produced less than \$1,000 worth of products in 1929 were located in the South. Two-thirds of all farms in the South produced less than \$1,000 of products. It is probable that the peasants of northern Europe produce more than \$1,000 worth of products on the average; and it is certain that the standard of living among the farmers of northern Europe is higher than in our South. Nearly two-thirds of the net migration from farms during the decade 1920-29 was from the 16 Southern States.



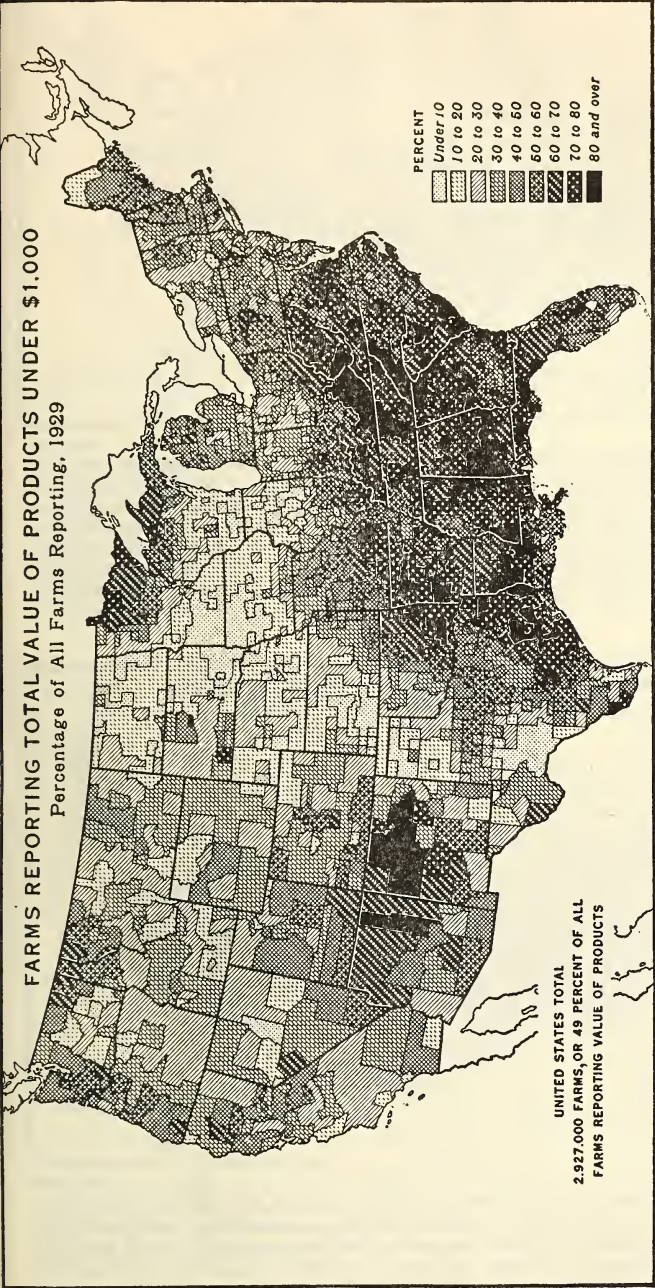
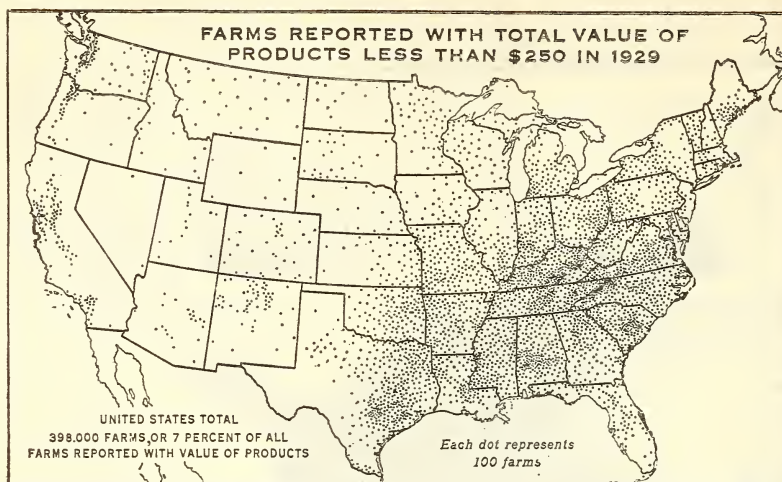


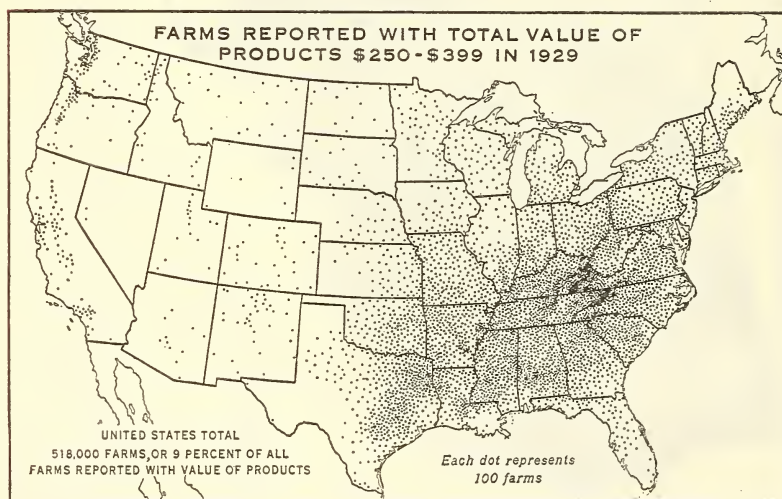
FIGURE 97.—The regions with the largest proportions of farms reporting total value of products under \$1,000 are the regions of highest birth rates. Ten adults on farms in these regions are raising about 15 children. Should this birth rate persist, these 15 would raise 22, these 22 would raise 33. Population would treble in a century, were there no migration. In the large cities, 10 adults are raising 7 children. Should this birth rate persist, these 7 would raise 5, these 5 would raise 3½. Births would fall to one-third in a century and population a generation later, were there no accessions from outside. Birth rates, both rural and urban, probably will continue to decline; but the future citizens of the Nation are likely to come in increasing proportions from poor farming regions.

BAE 27550



BAE 27280

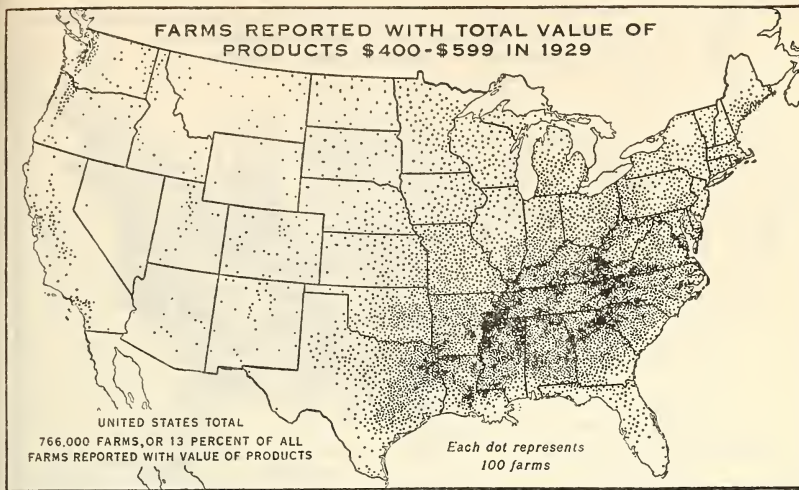
FIGURE 98.—Products of less than \$250 in value, in 1929, were reported by 400,000 farms, located mostly in the South—notably dense in the mountain South. Doubtless the operators of many of these farms had other sources of income, but only about one-fourth “worked for pay off the farm more than 150 days in that year” (fig. 55). More than a million farming people in the United States have a level of living probably little if any better than that of the average Chinese farmer in the Yangtse Valley.



BAE 28195

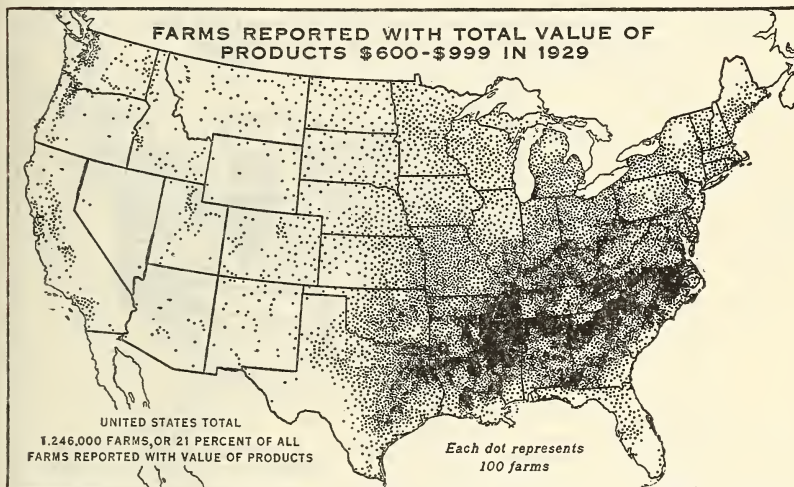
FIGURE 99.—Farms producing \$250 to \$399 worth of products in 1929 are mostly found in the same territory as those producing less than \$250 worth. Comparison of these maps of low-producing farms with crop maps and with soil, topography, and land-value maps makes clear the correlation of these little farms with cotton production and with poor soils or hilly surface. As cotton is still picked by hand, the increase in production per worker associated with use of power machinery has been retarded. It has been similarly retarded by hilly land and poor soils.





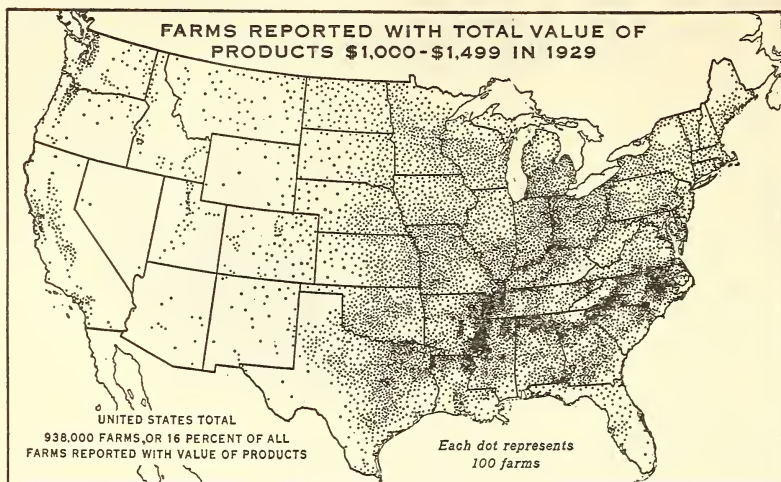
BAE 28099

FIGURE 100.—Farms producing \$400 to \$599 worth of products in 1929 are also located mostly in the South, but are relatively more numerous in the North than farms of lesser productivity. In the South these farms producing \$400 to \$599 worth of products are common in the Cotton Belt, particularly in the Mississippi Delta north of the Louisiana line, in northeastern Mississippi, and in the Piedmont of Georgia and South Carolina; also in the southern Appalachians and along the Ohio River. There are very few in the prairie portion of the Corn Belt.



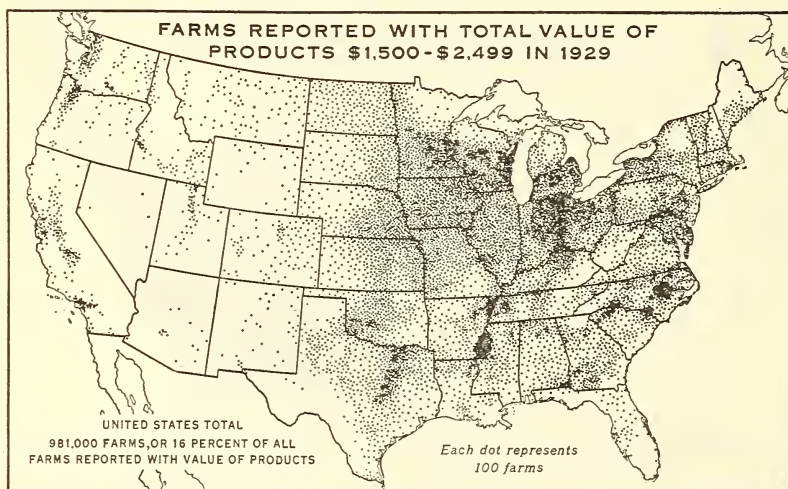
BAE 27331

FIGURE 101.—Farms producing \$600 to \$999 worth of products in 1929 are the most numerous group of farms in the United States, according to this census classification. They constituted about one-fifth of all farms. These farms are concentrated largely in the South, but are numerous in Missouri, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and the North Atlantic States. In general, such farms characterize the originally forested portions of the United States, where it commonly took a lifetime to clear 80 acres of land. The larger farms characterize the originally grassland portions of the country.



BAE 27611

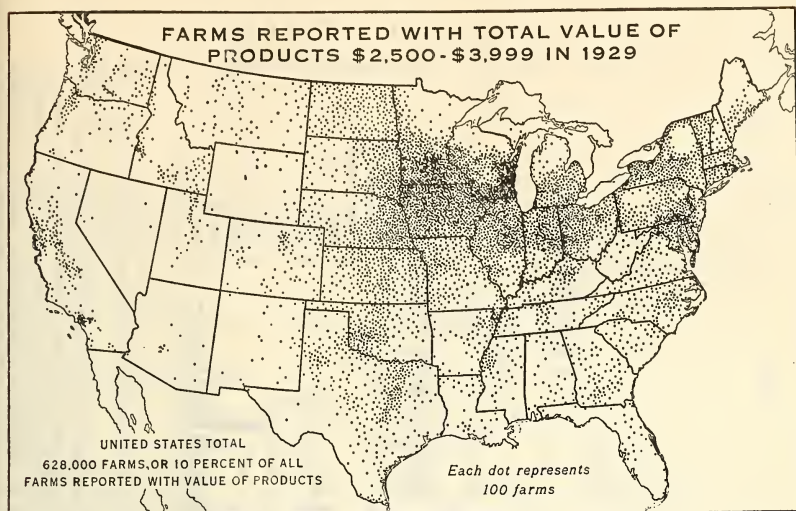
FIGURE 102.—The distribution of farms producing \$1,000 to \$1,499 worth of products in 1929 is less concentrated than that of the smaller farms. Although the Yazoo delta and the northern margin of the Cotton Belt are the areas of greatest concentration, the bluegrass district of Kentucky and much of Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan show a rather dense distribution; also southern Illinois, Missouri, eastern Kansas, Oklahoma, and eastern Texas. Most of this group of farms is still found in the originally forested portions of the Nation.



BAE 28249

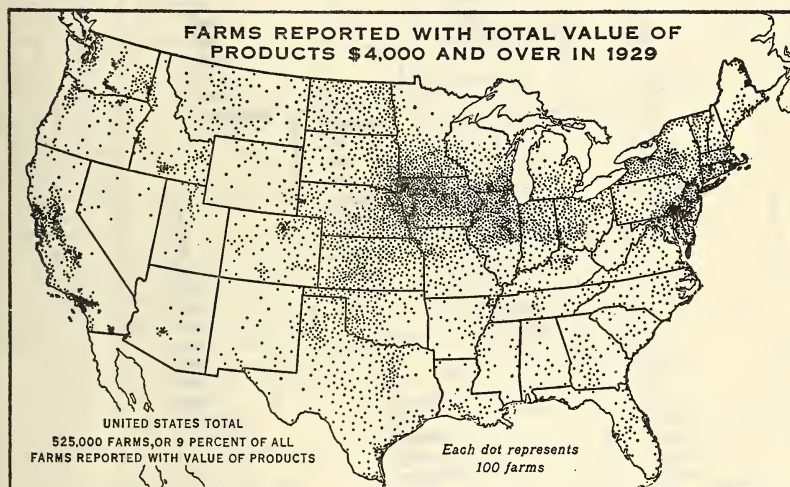
FIGURE 103.—Most of the farms producing \$1,500 to \$2,499 worth of products in 1929 were located in the Corn Belt and in the Dairy Belt, but there were concentrations of such farms also in the more fertile districts in the South, and less dense but more uniform distribution in the Hard Winter Wheat and Spring Wheat Belts. This is the dominant size of farm, measured in value of products, in western Ohio and most of Indiana, and across central Michigan and central Wisconsin to east central Minnesota. To the north of this belt most farms are smaller and to the south most are larger.





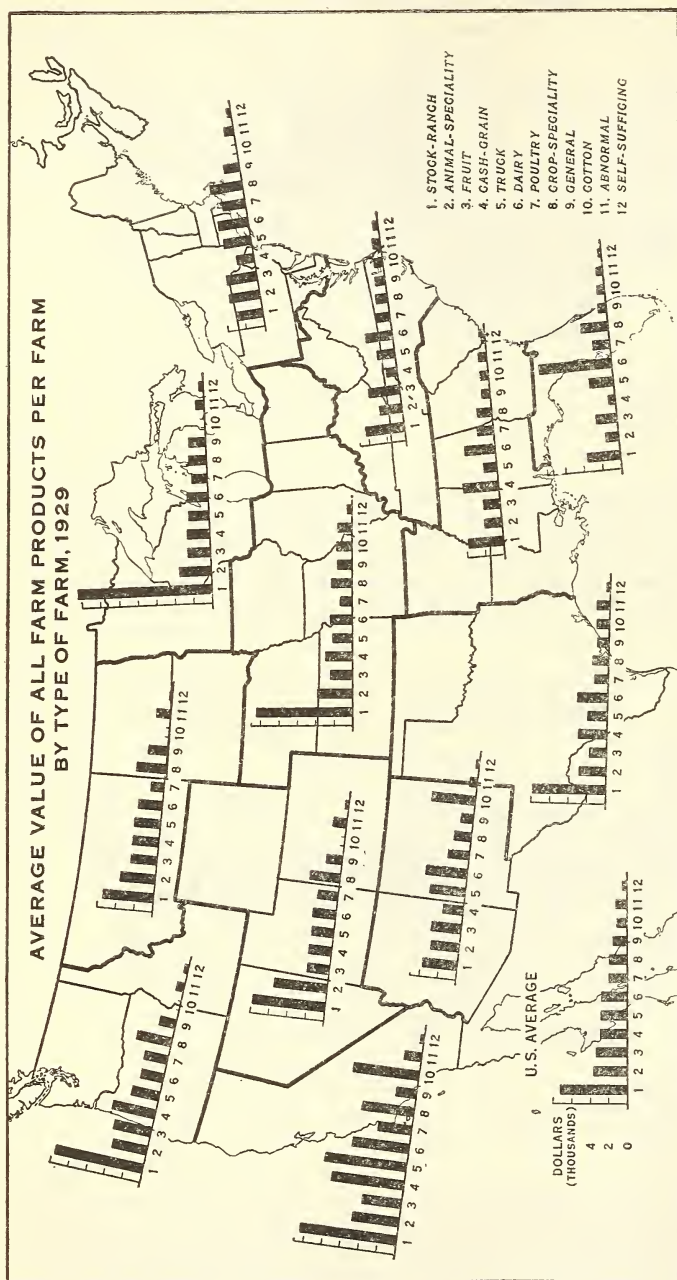
BAE 27615

FIGURE 104.—Farms producing \$2,500 to \$3,999 worth of products are located mostly in the Corn Belt and the Dairy Belt, with less dense distribution extending northwesterly into the Spring Wheat Belt and southwesterly over the Winter Wheat Belt into central Texas. These are regions of good-to-excellent soils and modern commercial family farms. Few such farms relative to all farms (fig. 1) are found in the South, except in the prairie portions of Texas and Oklahoma, but there are many in the irrigated valleys of the West.



BAE 27608

FIGURE 105.—The large farms, measured by value of products, are concentrated in the Corn Belt, particularly the prairie portion, in the richer districts of the Dairy Belt, and in the valleys of the far Western States, particularly California. Considerable numbers of such farms are found also in the Hard Winter Wheat and Spring Wheat Belts, but very few in the South, except in the prairie portions of Texas and Oklahoma. Only 9 percent of the farms in the Nation in 1929, a year of fairly good prices for farm products, produced over \$4,000 worth of products.



BAE 32355

Figure 106.—Stock ranches produce, on the average, a higher value of products per farm than other types of farming in the United States and self-sufficient farms the least. This is true in all the major groups of States shown in the map above, except the North Atlantic group, Florida, and New Mexico-Arizona, where dairy farms exceed stock ranches in average value of products. Note the high average value of products of most types of farming in California—higher for each type than in any of the groups of States, except for animal-specialty farms in the group of States to the east, and except for self-sufficient farms in several groups. Farm wage workers greatly exceed farm operators in number in California.



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